HL 1691 2

AGRI-NEWS

MAY 22 1980

May 5, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Recollections Of A District Agriculturist (Jubilee Series) 1
Nutritive Processing Assistance Accepted 4
Cropland Rental Rates 5
Using Weather Data To Insure Forage 8
Air Seeder 10
Sheep And Lamb Outlook. 13
Intended Acreage Of Principal Field Crops And Summerfallow 14
Frost Risk For Argentine Varieties 15
Revised Horticultural Guide Available. 16
Livestock Pest Control Specialist Appointed 17

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

SHOUT
SHARE
IT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECOLLECTIONS OF A DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

by E.A. Chisholm

In May 1950 I was sent to Red Deer as assistant to John L. Eaglesham. To me, this period was one of the highlights of my agricultural career, not only as a D.A., but in my future endeavors in the agricultural field. John was everything – teacher, guide, father confessor and a pretty astute businessman.

A year later I was invited to open a new office at Rocky Mountain House. This was a long narrow district extending from the Red Deer River in the south almost to Rimbey in the north, and it was made up of the western sections of the Olds, Red Deer and Lacombe D.A. areas

Although it had been settled in part as early as the late 1800's, it was still a new frontier for extension work, and, while it was only 50 miles from Red Deer, it was a long half day's journey by car. One advantage of this situation was that visits from headquarters staff were very few and far between.

Since I was interested in livestock, I suppose it was only natural that my activities should gravitate in that direction. Soon after my arrival, a neighbourhood farmer reported that his calves were dying. An examination showed that blackleg could be the cause. After a hurried trip to Red Deer, and after having vaccinated all the calves, the losses miraculously stopped. Next came a call to look at a sick steer. My examination suggested some sort o[illegible]der trouble, and I recommended immediate slaughter. An amateur post mortem carried out with the help of the local butcher located the stone and I saw my first case of "water belly."

Soon I was getting calls to look at all sorts of sick animals, including cats and dogs. Then came a stern letter from the director of extension, F.H. Newcombe, stating that O.S. Long man, the deputy minister of Agriculture, had forbidden D.A's to act as veterinarians since they

- (cont'd) -

were not trained for such work. Fortunately, a veterinarian moved into the district about six months later.

About this time rabies broke out along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, and Dr. E. Ballentine, the director of Veterinary Services, requested that all suspicious specimens be sent into the lab for examination. It was winter, and the temperature was hovering between -20° and -30° F when a report came in from the Prairie Creek area that a timber wolf had been seen following some children walking home from school. He then stampeded a bunch of horses one night in a corral, and was finally shot by an area resident while fighting with his dog. There were only two trains a week into Rocky Mountain House at that time, so on "train day" I went out and recovered the wolf's carcass.

It was a big black bitch weighing close to 200 pounds, about seven feet long and frozen stiff. After some difficulty, I managed to load it into the trunk of my car and headed for town where I obtained some empty bread cartons from the local grocery store in which I wrapped my specimen and tied it securely, or so I thought. At train time, my oldest daughter, Donna, who was just a little tyke, and I headed for the station. My idea was to transfer the wolf from the car to the baggage car with the least possible fuss. Several people were standing on the platform waiting for the train as we proceeded to move the wolf — Donna on one end and me on the other. About half way across the platform, Donna found her end too heavy and dropped it. Pop went the string and the frozen wolf slithered across the platform among the startled passengers. Eventually, we got it loaded and shipped to the laboratory. After all that, it was not rabid!

My wife was very reluctant to go to Rocky Mountain House with no water, no sewers and no roads. Furthermore, she had heard that it was a rough town. With the mix of farmers, cowboys, lumberjacks, trappers and outfitters, a person walking down the street on a Saturday night looking for a fight would probably find someone prepared to accommodate

Recollections Of A District Agriculturist (cont'd)

him. However, because we were more or less isolated, everybody participated fully in all activities, and three and a half years later, when other opportunities arose, we were all very reluctant to leave. This applied to the whole district. Some people did not have very much but you were always welcome to share what they had, and during the whole time I was there, I don't think that I ever wanted for a meal or a place to sleep.

At the time I sometimes wondered whether it was worth it — late nights, mud holes, deep snow and mosquitoes. But in later years when I would meet some of those fellows, (many of whom are former 4-H kids who are now successful farmers in the area) and they would say "When you talked me into using fertilizer, you really set me up,"or "That bull you got me really started me in the cattle business," it all seemed worthwhile.

About the Author:

From 1953-63 Mr. Chisholm was secretary-manager of the Western Stockgrowers. He subsequently served as its director and in 1974-75 became president.

Mr. Chisholm and a number of ranchers in southern Alberta established Western Feedlots Ltd. at Strathmore in 1958. He currently holds the position of managing director.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/agrinews00albe_11

May 5, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUTRITIVE PROCESSING ASSISTANCE ACCEPTED

Two Alberta firms and an individual are to receive assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

Ronald B. Fletcher and Associates Ltd. of Calgary will receive $43,564 to construct a plant at Coleman where a unique new process will be employed to produce water-degradable sulphur pellets for use in bulk fertilizers. The capital requirement is estimated at $147,175, and six full-time jobs are expected to be created.

Bashaw Fertilizer Ltd. of Bashaw will receive $22,958 for a fertilizer blending operation that will serve the needs of the surrounding farming community. The capital requirement for the operation, which will be part of a larger farm service complex, is estimated at $143,485. Two full-time jobs are expected to be created.

Clark Lysne of Falun will receive $6,255 to construct a goat's milk processing plant to produce feta cheese. The estimated capital cost is $25,020, and two full-time jobs are expected to be created.

The Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement, funded on a 50-50 basis by the federal and provincial governments, and administered by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture, is designed to help nutritive processing firms in rural Alberta to become established, expand or modernize.

- 30 -

ne (403) 427-2127

May 5, 1980

5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROPLAND RENTAL RATES

The joint Alberta Agriculture and Unifarm sponsored Agricultural Input Monitoring System (AIMS) has provided the following information on cropland rental rates. It is based on a survey that was carried out in October of 1979.

Cash Rent

The survey included 41 cash rent examples from across the province. Following are the results broken down into regions and land quality.

Peace River:	Good Land	$13–$20 per acre
	Medium Land	$12–$18 per acre
	Poor Land	$10–$12 per acre
Northwest:	Good Land	$17–$23 per acre
	Medium Land	$15–$20 per acre
	Poor Land	$10–$12 per acre
Northeast:	Good Land	$25–$27 per acre
	Medium Land	$17–$21 per acre
	Poor Land	$10–$12 per acre
Central:	Good Land	$30--$40 per acre
	Medium Land	$15–$25 per acre
	Poor Land	$10–$12 per acre
South:	Good Land	$20–$31 per acre
	Medium Land	$13–$20 per acre
	Poor Land	$10–$12 per acre

(All of the above were on dryland)

Terms Of Leases:	1 year . . . . . .53 per cent
	2 years. . . . . 5 per cent
	3 years. . . . . .32 per cent
	4 to 5 years . . . . . .10 per cent

Of the cash rental situations reported, 80 per cent were in the form of a written agreement.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Cropland Rental Rates (cont'd)

Crop Share

There were 26 cases of crop share rentals reported in the survey. The most common split (92 per cent) was 1/3 landlord – 2/3 tenant arrangement. In 58 per cent of these cases, there was also some splitting of input costs, with the most common being a 1/3 landlord – 2/3 tenant split of chemical and fertilizer costs. In many instances where inputs were not split, the tenants indicated they would be willing to use more inputs if the landlord would split the cost with them.

Other crop share arrangements reported were:

1) 25 per cent landlord – 75 per cent tenant split where the tenant paid all input costs.
2) 40 per cent landlord – 60 per cent tenant split where the landlord paid 40 per cent of fertilizer and chemical costs.

Terms Of Leases:

1 year	.52 per cent
3 years	.43 per cent
More than three years	5 per cent

Of the crop share leases reported, 76 per cent were by written agreement.

Points To Remember When Leasing Land

General

- All leases should be by written agreement.
- The tenant should file a caveat against the land as a means of protecting himself if the lease is for three years or longer.
- The landlord and tenant should re-evaluate their costs and returns each year to to ensure that the lease is still fair to both.

- (cont'd) -

Cropland Rental Rates (cont'd)

Cash Rent

. Timing of payments should be agreed upon and written into the lease. This is particularly important for the tenant.

. The landlord must remember to include the rate of appreciation in land value when calculating his return for a cash rental agreement. If he wants a 12 per cent return on his land investment and land is appreciating at 9 per cent per year, then a cash rent of 3 per cent of the land value plus the 9 per cent appreciation would give him a 12 per cent return.

Crop Share

. The lease agreement should contain a provision for the splitting of crop insurance premiums and proceeds if the input costs are to be split.

. Both parties should agree on the quota acreage allocation if the tenant holds a Canadian Wheat Board permit book.

Alberta Agriculture's Farm Business Management Branch has a publication entitled "Land Leasing Agreement In Alberta", which outlines all aspects of land leasing in detail and provides sample lease agreements. It is available from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 — 107th Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8; the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, TOM 1PO and from your local district agriculturist.

May 5, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USING WEATHER DATA TO INSURE FORAGE

by Peter Funk
Alberta Agriculture's District Agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House

Research has shown that legume and grass growth can be predicted by weather data, and that such predictions can be used as a basis for insurance.

It is hard to insure hay and pasture under the conventional production guarantee method for other crops because of the difficulty of measuring production. The difficulty arises because forage is harvested in so many ways (dry hay in large and small bales, loose in a stack, haylage, grass silage, zero grazing, etc.) Then how do you measure pasture yields?

The plan developed by the researchers to measure forage yields on the basis of weather data uses a computer to establish long-term normal yields in various areas. It takes into account the available soil moisture (including daily rainfall), hours of sunshine and the temperature. It simulates daily forage growth and accumulates this growth over the whole growing season. Growth is considered to begin in the spring when the temperature has been above 5° C for 10 days.

Once the long-term yield has been established for an area, it is used as a basis for comparison in the year in which a farmer insures his forage. The computer uses daily rainfall readings reported by insurance policyholders, rainfall records from nearby farmers and check stations, carryover soil moisture data and regional data on temperatures and hours of sunshine to calculate the "actual" yield which is then averaged over the township.

The farmer's calculated "actual" yield is compared with the simulated "normal" yield and is expressed as a percentage. The amount of the claim is based on this comparison, and payment is made when the calculated yield is 80 per cent or less of the "normal" yield.

- (cont'd) -

Using weather Data To Insure Forage (cont'd)

This year the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation is using weather data as a basis for its forage insurance coverage in the following areas: the counties of Red Deer, Lacombe,Ponoka, Wetaskiwin, Camrose, Stettler, Paintearth and Flagstaff as well as in special area No.4 and ID's 10 and 11.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIR SEEDER

Have you heard of an air seeder? It has nothing to do with an aeroplane and has apparently been around for 10 or more years. However, it is only in the last year or so that a number of companies have started to market it.

Apparently the air seeder was so named because it uses an air stream to move and/or distribute grain from a central hopper to the furrow openers which are often the shanks of a wide chisel plow or cultivator. Some models distribute granular fertilizer in the same way and often in the same air stream.

According to Normand Therrien, district agriculturist at Camrose, the advantages of an air seeder over a conventional seed drill include faster seeding, faster filling, fewer moving parts and faster transportation. Still another benefit is that it is possible to band nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers four to six inches below the seed where the soil is moist. This means that the fertilizer is concentrated in a strip below and to the side of the seed. Because soil contact with the fertilizer is minimized, fertilizer availability is enhanced. Banding also encourages the plants to put down deeper roots. John Harapiak, chief agrologist for Western Co-operative Fertilizers in Calgary, says that banding fertilizers is worth between two and 10 bushels of extra yield per acre.

Mr. Therrien reports that American research on fertilizer banding has shown a five to 15 bushel yield advantage over conventional fertilizing and suggests that banding nitrogen and phosphate together may be the best technique of all. "The biggest question for most people", Mr. Therrien says, "is can a cultivator penetrate the ground evenly enough to attain an accurate seed placement depth?"

He also reports that the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool's research farm at Watrous, Saskatchewan, and the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute plan to conduct tests on air seeders

- (cont'd) -

Air Seeder (cont'd)

this summer. In the meantime, the following observations were recorded by North Dakota State University scientists who have been evaluating air seeders.

- Yields obtained from spring wheat and barley planted in a no-till seedbed with a Wil Rich air seeder in the sping of 1978 were equal to or exceeded those obtained from spring plowing and the use of a conventional seed drill.
- Winter wheat and winter rye planted in standing stubble with a Wil Rich air seeder in the fall of 1978 survived the winter much better than the same crops sown with a hoe drill in summerfallow. The Wil Rich air seeder gave the best yields when it was equipped with press wheels.
- Under no-till conditions in the spring of 1979, the use of a Wil Rich air seeder resulted in greater yields than those obtained from the use of a Kirschman press drill. However, in trials in which spring plowing and spring cultivating were carried out, the press drill produced higher yields than the air seeder.
- The Wil Rich air seeder seemed to be very compatible with no-till or reduced tillage. The savings in energy, soil moisture conservation and reduced soil erosion all made the concept quite attractive. However, uniform depth control was found difficult to achieve with an air seeder, especially in irregular and soft seedbeds. If the seed was placed too deeply, the stand and yield were reduced. However, depth control monitors are now being used experimentally on air seeders in the United States.

"Air seeders from a management point of view seem to have a place in the seeding of barley, wheat and oats," Mr. Therrien says. "It is also possible to use them for seeding flax and rapeseed, where seed depth control is critical, but the cultivator depth must be closely monitored. For best results the fertilizer and seed should be incorporated into the soil in separate operations. Both nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers should be applied in the fall at a depth

Air Seeder (cont'd)

of four to six inches, and minimal, shallow cultivation should be carried out the following spring prior to seeding. The air seeder should be followed by packers (press wheels) and harrows during the seeding operation."

In essence, a farmer who wants to use an air seeder will have to modify his seeding management to fit the seeder's method of operation.

- 30 -

May 5, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEP AND LAMB OUTLOOK

Given the present economic climate, Alberta's lamb prices are expected to remain near their present level during the second quarter of this year, says Carolyn Scott of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch.

Canadian sheep and lamp slaughter for the remainder of 1980 will probably continue to be above the 1979 level. However, the first quarter slaughter increase of 34 per cent will decline to a more moderate level, with the total Canadian slaughter for the year likely to average about 14 per cent above that recorded in 1979.

Alberta's sheep and lamb slaughter during the second quarter of this year is expected to decline to below that recorded in the first quarter, thereby reflecting the usual seasonal pattern. Hence, prices in the second quarter will not be pressured by supplies, and as long as the retail demand is maintained, prices should remain stable.

The province's total sheep and lamb inventory on January 1 of this year was reported to be 127,000, up 7 per cent compared with a year earlier. The sheep population was 87,000, up 7 per cent, while the lamb population was 40,000 representing a 5 per cent increase compared with January 1, 1979.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

May 5, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTENDED ACREAGE OF PRINCIPAL FIELD CROPS AND SUMMERFALLOW

Alberta farmers intend to plant 5.75 million acres to all classes of wheat this year, according to Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch. This figure represents an increase of 550,000 acres compared with the 1979 acreage.

The barley acreage is expected to increase by 18 per cent compared with last year to 5.55 million acres, while the acreage devoted to oats is expected to total 1.75 million acres, up by 150,000 acres from last year. The mixed grain acreage of 250,000 acres is unchanged from last year.

The combined fall and spring rye acreage is predicted to increase by 16 per cent compared with 1979 to 290,000 acres.

The anticipated rapeseed acreage of 2.5 million acres is down by 29 per cent from last year, and the flaxseed acreage is expected to decrease by 38 per cent to 150,000 acres.

Alberta's summerfallow acreage is expected to decrease this year by 9 per cent to 5.85 million acres.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROST RISK FOR ARGENTINE VARIETIES

Farmers who have decided to switch some of their Polish Canola acreage to Argentine varieties in the higher frost risk areas of central and northern Alberta can help to minimize the risk by following these management practices, suggested by Phil Thomas, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of oilseed crops.

- Check with local farmers who have grown Argentine varieties and district agriculturists to make sure that they can be grown in your area.
- Choose high, well drained land that is the least susceptible to frost damage.
- Plant an Argentine variety on only a portion of your planned acreage.
- Treat your seed with a fungicide to reduce seedling blight or damping-off and to control black leg. The treatment will also encourage early growth. An insecticide seed treatment will control flea beetle.
- Plant Argentine varieties on stubble rather than on summerfallow. This will normally speed up maturity (by as much as five days in some years).
- Plant Argentine varieties before May 15 in a well prepared, firm, weed-free seedbed at a depth of less than an inch if moisture is adequate. If the seedbed is dry, plant as deeply as is necessary to reach the moisture, but remember that seed that is planted at a depth of two to three inches may have difficulty in establishing an adequate stand.
- Use a seeding rate that is at least a pound more than that used for Polish seed if the soil moisture is adequate. A thicker stand will usually be earlier maturing and more uniform.
- Have some Polish seed on hand in case conditions make it impossible to seed by May 15.

Mr. Thomas points out that even when all the above management practices are followed, there is still a frost risk with Argentine varieties because they take 10 to 20 days longer to mature than the Polish varieties.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

May 5, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REVISED HORTICULTURAL GUIDE AVAILABLE

A revised edition of the "Alberta Horticultural Guide" is now available for both rural and urban home gardeners.

It contains cultural and cultivar information that is not more than three years old, and that is applicable to all the climatic zones of Alberta. The information was obtained from research stations, horticultural education institutions, commercial growers, professional and amateur horticulturists and home gardeners from across the province.

Prepared by representatives of Agriculture Canada, Alberta Agriculture, the University of Alberta, city parks departments and commercial horticulturists, the publication covers such things as vegetables, fruit, trees and shrubs, hedges, roses, perennial flowers, annual and biennial flowers, lawns, ground covers, landscaping, home vegetable storage, composting, the control of garden pests, diseases, insects and weeds and house plants. It also contains a map of the province's climatic zones so that all recommended varieties can be related to specific zones.

Copies of the "Alberta Horticultural Guide" can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agricultural Building, 9718 — 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK PEST CONTROL SPECIALIST APPOINTED

Dr. H.B. Jeffery, head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, has announced the appointment of Dr. B.A. Khan to the position of pest control specialist.

Dr. Khan will be located in Edmonton where he will assist Ross Gould to supervise the Alberta Warble Control Program, and advise farmers, agricultural service board personnel and department staff on the control of livestock pests and the use of pesticides. He will be responsible with the animal health division, crop protection branch and the pest management section of the Alberta Environmental Centre for co-ordinating applied research projects and demonstrations that deal with the control of livestock and poultry pests.

Dr. B.A. Khan

A native of India, Dr. Khan obtained his Ph.D in livestock entomology from the University of Wyoming in the United States in 1973. While at the university he worked as a livestock entomologist and assisted the extension entomologist to conduct pest surveys and pesticide efficacy trials for the State of Wyoming.

He joined Alberta Agriculture's plant industry division following graduation and become involved in the Athabasca Black Fly Research Program, which dealt with the protection of cattle at the farm level. He conducted livestock pest surveys and co-ordinated pesticide evaluation trials with the Plant Industry Laboratory and Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge.

In 1978 he became land systems research manager for the Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program, a joint federal-provincial program which was terminated in April of this year.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

AGRI-NEWS

May 12, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

My D.A. Experience In The Mid Thirties (Jubilee Series) 1

Hog Marketing Review Committee Hearings 5

Vaccination Urged Against Western Equine Encephalomyelitis. 6

The Performance Of Soil-Incorporated Herbicides Under Dry Conditions. 7

Fairview College's Sheep Production Courses And Confinement Management 8

Compensation Program For Bear Damage 11

Alberta Sugar Production Situation. 13

Regional Director Transfer 15

Regional Director Appointments. 16

District Home Economist Appointed To Vulcan 19

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

May 12, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MY D.A. EXPERIENCE IN THE MID THIRTIES

by Jean-Marie Fontaine

During the 60 years that Alberta Agriculture has been providing extension services to its rural residents, I have had the honor and the privilege of contributing 35 of the best years of my life. Of these, 10 were spent in the St. Paul – Bonnyville district and 25 (or a quarter of a century) in the Morinville – Legal – Bon Accord area or Sturgeon M.D.

In the spring of 1935, I was invited to join the ranks of the DA service, by the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, W.N. Chant, under the United Farmers of Alberta's administration. H.A. Craig, his deputy, instructed me to go to St. Paul, find a house and locate an office. He advised me to report to the livestock commissioner, S.G. Carlyle, who was also supervisor of DA's.

Armed with those definite and specific instructions, equipped with a B.A. (British American) road map, picked up at the corner service station, I ventured on the first highway to St. Paul, which at that time had 57 ninety degree corners between Edmonton and my destination. In a broken frame model A Ford, which registered 63,000 miles, I reached St. Paul in four and a half hours – a distance of 132 miles.

Upon arrival, I located a three bedroom house, centrally located, for a $12 a month. Plumbing was not included, of course. The next day, I rented an old abandoned telephone office on main street for $6 a month with the understanding that at least the inside would be calcimined.

The cleaning job completed, I proceeded to move in the office furniture. It consisted of a kitchen chair brought from home, an old 36" square, discarded tavern table bought from the Lavoie Hotel for $1. I also bought in a 2" x 12" plank 8' long supported by two

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

My D. A. Experience In The Mid Thirties (cont'd)

empty nail kegs, borrowed from the lumber yard, for the comfort of my visitors who had sat on the floor for the first few days. My filing cabinet was an empty apple box given to me by Brosseau Stores Ltd.

On his first visit a few weeks later, our supervisor, in his wisdom, decided to renew and supplement all the office furniture, which was most welcomed. The telephone was connected a few weeks later.

In view of the above, I consider myself a pioneer in the field of extension, a title I am very proud of as I have always admired our early settlers in the West. They represented a time when everything had to be done from the turning of the first sod to the building of the log shack, before the first bushel of wheat could be harvested and converted into a loaf of bread to feed their hungry stomachs.

Even if these first settlers had preceded me by a quarter of a century, they were still a living example of how working people were determined to make a living, regardless of the sacrifice.

Inspired by the courage of this first generation of northeastern Alberta farmers, I soon realised that, to be successful in my new mission, I had to become one of them and to be a good listener if I were to learn about their problems.

After all, I had been an Alberta citizen only eight years and could not possibly call myself an authority in the very complex profession of an agriculturist. This was the case even though I felt I was familiar with many basic principles of farming because I was a farmer's son and had written a 'thesis' on "Mixed Farming in northern Alberta for a Profitable Agriculture".

Well aware that a theory is sound only in so far as it is based on practical application, I did a lot of questioning before I dared making definite recommendations. My questions included: Why so much fallow? Why not more hay crops? Why so few cattle on such large farms? Why such poor quality hogs? Why such a crop sequence? etc . After receiving and

My D.A. Experience In The Mid Thirties (cont'd)

taking note of many different answers, I felt better equipped to offer alternatives to the existing methods of farming.

I accepted with a certain degree of confidence an official invitation from the M.D. of Bonnyville to visit a group of settlers close to Muriel Lake who were disappointed in their persistent attempts to grow cereals, and only cereals, on the grey wooded soil.

At a public meeting held in the area, I was most successful in obtaining the co-operation of most of the people present to take advantage of our Forage Crop Seed Distribution Policy.

The following spring, I was handing out 600 pounds of grass and legume seed at half price from the municipal office and showing each recipient how to inoculate his alfalfa and clover seed using milk on the gelatinous nitroculture. Remember?

We had to prove to the people we could do what we were advising them to do. When our predictions became a reality, we acquired the farmer's confidence, which is essential in any extension programme.

The use of fertilizers was unknown before the 1930's in the St. Paul area. Therefore, in co-operation with a Mr. Martin of the CNR colonization department, I set out fertilizer trials throughout the area on the most travelled roads. These became demonstration plots in the fall, and were visited by groups of local farmers who became convinced that fertilizers had a place in their farming operations.

4-H clubs also proved to be an efficient extension tool. Swine clubs were used for introducing good quality breeding stock in the area. This approach was followed by the federal Sow Distribution Policy (loaning boars), which very rapidly revolutionized the quality of swine.

During the war years, 1939-45, we all remember the sugar rationing. To overcome this unpleasant inconvenience in our daily lives, beekeeping was implemented on many farms. It is very possible that its success was responsible for today's million dollar industry in the area.

My D.A. Experience In The Mid Thirties (cont'd)

The same thing could be said of the Forage Seed Distribution Policy and the fertilizer trials, which later led to such major and glorified extension programs as: Save the Soil Campaign, Master Farm Family Awards and Farm and Home. These embodied the principles of sound farm management, including bookkeeping and banking assistance, which became more and more necessary as we created a desire among the farmers to increase their production many times over.

When I travel through the same districts today and see many abandoned farmsteads replaced by a few huge silos, large feedlots and glamorous milking parlors, and I see the vanishing villages and towns where farmers used to meet on Saturday nights and enjoyed a friendly visit, I wonder if my efforts have not contributed to the destruction of that humble and peaceful life enjoyed by our pioneers — the heros and founders of our beautiful Alberta.

About The Author:

Jean-Marie Fontaine served as district agriculturist in the St. Paul/Bonnyville region from 1935 to 1945 and subsequently in the county of Sturgeon until 1970 when he retired.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

May 12, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG MARKETING REVIEW COMMITTEE HEARINGS

The Hog Marketing Review Committee will entertain briefs and recommendations from organizations and individuals who have information pertinent to this review at the following hearings, which will be held at the Convention Inn South, 4404 Calgary Trail, Edmonton.

May 22	May 28
June 9	June 10
June 23	June 24

Meeting times : 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Submissions must be registered with the secretary of the hearings, F. Kehoe, at 427 — 2417, prior to the meetings. Provisions for private consultations with the committee may be made.

Members of the Hog Marketing Review Committee are:

James L. Foster (chairman) of Red Deer

Dan Giebelhaus of Vegreville

Leon Ferguson of Edmonton

Jim Christie of Trochu.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

May 12, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VACCINATION URGED AGAINST WESTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine urges owners of horses that have not been vaccinated against western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE) to have them vaccinated immediately. Horses that have been previously vaccinated require a booster shot.

Research workers and equine clinicians at the college report that the number of mosquitoes affected with the WEE virus was found to be higher in August of last year than it has been in any of the previous nine years. This finding, combined with a mild winter and an early spring, indicates that cases of the disease in horses could appear as early as the end of May. The mosquito is the agent that spreads the disease from birds, which are its natural hosts.

There is no time to waste before having horses vaccinated because it takes at least three weeks for immunity to develop, and a second dose of the vaccine, four to eight weeks later, is necessary for an animal to develop the strongest resistance. Foals usually need a third dose which is given at weaning time. Pregnant mares can be vaccinated, but most veterinarians refrain from immunizing an animal that is in the last 30 days of gestation.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

May 12, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PERFORMANCE OF SOIL-INCORPORATED HERBICIDES UNDER DRY CONDITIONS

Have you used or are you planning to use soil-incorporated herbicides this spring?

Shaffeek Ali, weed control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says that the performance of some commonly used soil-incorporated herbicides may be affected by the low level of soil moisture, which has resulted from this spring's abnormally warm, dry weather. He points out, for example, that the wild oat herbicide, Avadex BW, requires a minimum of 5 per cent available soil moisture to become activated, and that if this moisture is not present, the wild oats that germinate below the two-inch layer of treated soil could grow through it with no adverse effects. On the other hand, if the soil receives moisture before the wild oats emerge, the herbicide will be activated and provide effective control.

Although Treflan, another commonly used soil-incorporated herbicide, does not need moisture to become activated, the fact that it has to be incorporated to a depth of four inches will cause a significant loss in soil moisture. The results could be difficulties in establishing a firm seedbed and soil drifting.

Mr. Ali warns against using soil incorporated herbicides in areas that are prone to soil drifting, especially if drifting has been a problem in the past. Under this spring's conditions, soil incorporation will make the soil in such areas even more susceptible to drifting.

Mr. Ali says present conditions are likely to be less critical for farmers who incorporated their herbicides last fall if they keep their cultural operations to a minimum this spring. He stresses that it is most important to conserve moisture in the top two or three inches of the soil.

If no moisture is received before seeding time, farmers who have not already used soil- incorporated herbicides might be wise to consider post-emergent herbicides.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAIRVIEW COLLEGE'S SHEEP PRODUCTION COURSES AND CONFINEMENT MANAGEMENT

Fairview College, long recognized as a leading innovator in sheep production, will be holding an advanced sheep production course on June 2 and 3 and a beginner's sheep production course from June 9 to 13.

The first course is intended for people who have experience with sheep and will emphasize nutrition and breeding. The second course will be invaluable to those planning on getting into sheep production. Both courses will be taught by Trevor Jones who has taught sheep, cattle and horse production technology at the college since 1957.

Much of the college's success in sheep production is due to Mr. Jones whose leadership in this area has attracted the attention of sheep specialists throughout Canada and the United States. Last December, Fairview College received 10 purebred Blackface (Highland) ewes from the J.P. Morgan Trust Farm at Senneville, Quebec. They were originally raised in the highlands of Scotland and later imported into Nova Scotia. Up to now few have been introduced into Western Canada. According to Mr. Jones, they will be maintained as purebreds and the lambs will be crossed with some of the College's own breeds. He says he is particularly interested in Finn-Blackface crosses.

He believes that the college's most successful work in sheep production has been in its confinement feeding program for both ewes and lambs. In fact, it was Fairview College that pioneered the elevated, slotted floor confinement method of feeding lambs.

It was developed in response to the severe limitations in the pastoral management of ewes and lambs which developed when the flock was increased to 150 ewes in 1964. The decision to eliminate pasture was made in 1966 when the flock was further increased to 200 ewes. The pasture was replaced by hayland, which produced high yielding forages, and grains.

- (cont'd) -

Fairview College's Sheep Production Courses And Confinement Management (cont'd)

The feeding of silage to the ewes increased the number of sheep per acre and the inclusion of fall rye in the seed mixture provided them with grazing from the beginning of September to late October. Pole-frame sheds and hay feeding corrals became both summer and winter quarters for the flock.

The managing of nursing lambs in confinement required changes, the most dramatic of which was the construction of an elevated, slotted-floor pole-frame shed. The effectiveness of this new management technique was further increased by the use of auger-filled self-feeders and automatic waterers and a "no-forage" barley-based diet, which was supplemented with pellets.

Mr. Jones reports that the practice of raising lambs on slotted floors has proved extremely successful. "Once the lambs are grouped on floors, little if any further management problems have been experienced" he says. "The lambs are grouped carefully. Those of similar size, vigor and sex will grow and finish together with few problems. The college's entire 1980 ewe flock was raised under these conditions and longevity and prolificacy has steadily improved.

Fairview College's confinement production-management system has attracted the attention of the Sheep Improvement, Development and Extension Centre (SIDEC) in Saskatoon which plans to construct confinement facilities. Representatives of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, the Saskatchewan Sheep and Wool Commission, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Saskatchewan's Animal Science Department are planning to tour the college's sheep production facilities later this season.

Earlier this spring Mr. Jones participated in a symposium at the University of Oregon in the U.S.A. It was attended by a group of farmers from New Mexico who wanted to use Fairview College's confinement design for a 10,000-head sheep confinement unit that has been commissioned by the American government.

Fairview College's Sheep Production Courses And Confinement Management (cont'd)

Anyone who would like more information on the sheep production courses or on Fairview College's sheep management program should contact Trevor Jones, Fairview College, Box 3000, Fairview, Alberta, TOH 1LO Telephone: (403) 835-2213.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPENSATION PROGRAM FOR BEAR DAMAGE

All beekeepers whose operations are registered under the Alberta Bee Act, who have at least 40 active hives, who obtain their principal source of income from the sale of bees or bee products and who suffer damage from bears are eligible for compensation under the Compensation Program for Bear Damage in Beeyards.

However, compensation will be paid for equipment and bees that are destroyed by bears only if the beeyard has been enclosed by an approved operating electric fence. This means the fence must have a minimum of four strands of taut wire that are no more than 24 cm (10 inches) apart. The maximum distance from the ground to the top wire cannot be more than 90 cm (36 inches). Either barbed or smooth wire can be used. Although steel posts are preferred for permanent fences, treated wooden posts or fibreglass posts are acceptable. Hollow plastic (PVC) or the equivalent with re-bar stakes for support can be used for portable fences. Insulators are required on all steel and wooden posts but are not required on plastic posts. A 12-volt charger is strongly recommended but 6 volt and 110-volt equipment are also acceptable. All vegetation under the wires must be either removed or treated.

The compensation program does not cover lost honey or lost production.

The maximum province-wide compensation that can be paid out under the program cannot exceed $50,000 for 1980. If claims exceed this figure, they will be dealt with on a pro-rated basis.

Compensation will be paid for cumulative losses that exceed $100 per beekeeping operation in a calendar year, but they cannot exceed $2,000. Individual claims and cumulative losses that exceed $300 in a calendar year must be verified by a government official, and destroyed or damaged hives must not be disturbed until they have been inspected. Any claims that

- (cont'd) -

Compensation Program For Bear Damage (cont'd)

do not require an inspection must be accompanied by a photograph.

Beekeepers who have an unfenced yard and who want help to control bears in the area should contact their nearest fish and wildlife office. Bear control is the responsibility of Alberta Fish and Wildlife; not Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA SUGAR PRODUCTION SITUATION

World sugar prices are expected to level out at between 15¢ and 20¢ (U.S.) a pound for the balance of the present crop year and to maintain most of this price recovery over the coming year, according to Bob Prather, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

The turn-around in the world sugar market, which has resulted mainly from a significant reduction in global production, will benefit Alberta beet growers. The sugar that remained from the 1978 crop was moved during the rising market, which helped growers to achieve an overall 1978 return of $38 per tonne, representing a 14 per cent increase over their 1977 return. Price prospects have resulted in initial 1979 crop payments of $29.50 per tonne, which is almost 23 per cent higher than the 1978 initial payment. Mr. Prather says that the maintenance of world sugar prices (ISA daily) above 15¢ (U.S.) could push the 1979 return of Alberta growers above the $50 per tonne level.

The considerably lower 1979 Canadian refined beet sugar production has helped to bring previously excessive stocks down to the point where some acreage increase will be necessary to ensure an adequate supply to meet the demand. The refined beet sugar output from the 1979 Canadian crop was less than 100,000 tonnes, representing a 30 per cent decrease from the 1978 level.

Alberta's sugar beet yield was about 58,500 tonnes, down slightly from 1978. It represented the third successive year of lower refined sugar output in the province. Mr. Prather reports that refined beet sugar shipments have increased this year, and that this fact, plus the 1979 production shortfall, has accelerated the drop in stocks to the point where carryover stocks are expected to be drastically reduced.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta Sugar Production Situation (cont'd)

The Alberta Sugar Company is reportedly seeking to contract 36,000 acres of sugar beets, which is 6.5 per cent higher than the 1979 contracted acreage. The prospects of a larger contracted acreage plus predicted favorable market returns in 1980 are encouraging to Alberta sugar beet growers, but, unfortunately, higher costs are expected to cancel out most of these gains.

- 30 -

May 12, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL DIRECTOR TRANSFER

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, has announced the transfer of Doug MacKenzie from the position of regional director for the Peace River area to the same position at Red Deer.

Doug MacKenzie

Mr. MacKenzie, who has served as regional director working out of Fairview for the past four years, succeeds Bob Price, long-time regional director and district agriculturist at Red Deer, who recently retired. Prior to his regional director's appointment, Mr. MacKenzie was senior district agriculturist at Calgary for three years.

He is a native of the Camrose district where he received his early education. He holds a B.Sc. (agriculture) from Montana State University and an M.Sc. from North Dakota State University.

Mr. MacKenzie joined Alberta Agriculture in 1968 as assistant district agriculturist at Stettler. Following a short term as district agriculturist at Lacombe and after completing his Master's program, he became supervisor of the department's communications branch in Edmonton.

In his role as regional director at Red Deer, Mr. MacKenzie will be responsible for supervising the extension staff and programs at the department's 10 district offices in south-central Alberta. He will also co-ordinate the programs and activities of all departmental staff within the region to meet the needs of farm families and the agricultural community in the area.

The MacKenzie's have three children and will reside at Lacombe.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

May 12, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, has announced the appointment of three new regional directors' for the Barrhead, Fairview and Vermilion regional offices.

John B. Tackaberry

John B. Tackaberry

John Tackaberry, a native of Alberta's Peace River region (Fairview), and senior district agriculturist at Valleyview, has been appointed regional director at Barrhead for the north-west region of the province. He succeeds Bill Dent who was recently appointed director of the plant industry division.

Mr. Tackaberry joined Alberta Agriculture in 1971 after obtaining his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta. He was appointed district agriculturist at Valleyview and in 1976 he was promoted to senior district agriculturist. During this period he trained seven district agriculturists. He was a member of the regional management team and regional representative on a number of provincial committees.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

Regional Director Appointments (cont'd)

Eric H. Horton

Eric H. Horton

Eric Horton, a native of Heinsburg, Alberta, has been appointed regional director at Fairview for the Peace River region. He succeeds Doug MacKenzie who has been transferred to Red Deer.

Mr. Horton graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1953. He was first employed by the department as assistant district agriculturist at Edmonton. From 1955 to 1963 he worked for Dow Chemicals as sales representative and marketing manager for Western Canada. He has also farmed and instructed business administration at Vermilion College. He has been with the Agricultural Development Corporation at Camrose since 1972. His position there prior to his present appointment was manager of lending.

Ralph F. Berkan

Ralph F. Berken

Ralph Berkan, a native of Semans, Saskatchewan, and formerly associate director of extension responsible for operations and staff development with Alberta Agriculture, has been appointed regional director at Vermilion for the northeast region of the province. He succeeds Stu Duncan who retired recently.

- (cont'd) -

Regional Director Appointments (cont'd)

Mr. Berkan is a 1964 graduate in agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan (B.S.A. - agricultural economics), and was first employed by Alberta Agriculture in 1966 as assistant district agriculturist at Camrose. He was then transferred to Provost where he opened the department's first district office. He served that area as district agriculturist for the next 10 years.

Mr. Berkan did postgraduate extension studies at Colorado State University and was appointed associate director of the extension division in 1977. In this capacity he was responsible for managing the division's staff recruitment and district agriculturist in-service training programs.

Regional directors are responsible for overall extension staff and program supervision in their respective regions. They are also the senior representatives of the department responsible for co-ordinating all staff activities and programs within the region to meet the needs of farm families and the agricultural community. The Barrhead (northwest) region is served by 12 district offices; the Peace River Region, by 10 district offices and the Vermilion (northeast) region, by 12 district offices.

- 30 -

May 12, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO VULCAN

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Roxana Nielsen to the position of district home economist at Vulcan.

Ms. Nielsen will provide area residents with information on housing, clothing and textiles, management, etc. She will also judge 4-H activities, sit on boards and offer suggestions to the Further Education Council and the Interagency Council.

She was raised on a mixed farm in the Olds area and attended the University of Alberta. She graduated last year with a B.Sc. (home economics), having specialized in clothing and textiles.

Following graduation Ms. Nielsen taught a short course in interior design to the fashion and merchandising students at Olds College. She then worked as an assistant manager for Fanny's Fabrics in Edmonton. She joined Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch in October 1979 and took her district home economist training at Pincher Creek.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

JUN 16 1980

May 19, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Alberta Emergency Stop-Loss Program For Hogs 1
Municipal Agricultural Services (Jubilee Series) 4
Alberta Farm Cash Receipts 7
Barley Situation 9
Alfalfa Stands Sustain Winter Injury 10
Annual Plowing Match 11
Rail And Truck Freight Rate Increases 12
Fleabeetle Warning 14
Aerial Herbicide Applications 15
Foreign Commodity Enquiries Received By International Marketing 16
Two-Year Diploma Course In Agri Business 18
Outdoor Floralies 19
Trade Director For International Marketing Group Appointed 20

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

May 19, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA EMERGENCY STOP-LOSS PROGRAM FOR HOGS

Alberta's agriculture minister, Dallas W. Schmidt, has announced the creation of a temporary, stop-loss stabilization program for hogs of Alberta origin in response to the emergency situation in the pork industry. It is effective from April 1, 1980 to March 31, 1981 and total payments could reach $25 million.

Mr. Schmidt said the above action was necessary to restore confidence and to prevent the erosion of the industry due to the negative impact of low producer prices and increased production costs. He emphasized that it is a short-term program, and that Alberta will continue to work with the federal government and with other provinces in an effort to develop a meaningful level of stabilization on a national level which would include producer participation.

The minister said the program, to be known as the Alberta Emergency Stop-Loss Program for Hogs, will ensure that a standard hog carcass which is defined as a 170-pound carcass indexing the 1979 grade average of 101 and priced at the average weekly price, will yield a return of $35 per hog over the calculated feed cost prevailing in that month. Feed costs will be revised monthly in order to account for fluctuation in barley and supplement prices.

Based on a preliminary feed cost estimate of $65.09 per hog marketed in April of 1980, and the guaranteed return above feed costs of $35 per hog, the program would support total returns during April to a level of $100.09 per standard hog carcass.

Payments to producers will be made when market returns fail to cover calculated feed cost plus $35. For example, during the week ended April 11,1980 , the average market price was reported to be $43.30/cwt. Using a 170- pound carcass indexing 101, the gross receipt for the standard hog carcass would be:

$$\$43.30 \times 1.7 \times 1.01 = \$74.35$$

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta Emergency Stop-Loss Program For Hogs (cont'd)

Based upon these estimates, the support payment per hog for the week of April 11, 1980 would amount to the difference between the guaranteed return and the actual market return per standard hog carcass for that week, i.e.,

Guaranteed Return Per Standard Hog Carcass	$100.09
Actual Return Per Standard Hog Carcass	$ 74.35
Alberta Support Payment Per Standard Hog Carcass	$ 25.74

Again based on a standard carcass weighing 170-pounds, the payment per hundredweight of carcass sold during the week of April 11, 1980 would be:

$$\frac{\$25.74}{1.70} = \$15.14/\text{cwt}$$

Hence, a producer marketing hogs in the week of April 11, 1980 would receive a support payment estimated to be $15.14/cwt. on qualified hog sales.

This calculation will continue on a weekly basis. The actual level of the support payment will vary depending upon the difference between returns for a standard hog carcass in any given week and the assured return of $35 above the feed cost prevailing at that time.

Payments to producers will be calculated weekly and disbursed monthly. The program will cover hogs of Alberta origin with the exception of light hogs (less than 90 pounds carcass weight), sows and boars and will be retroactive to April 1, 1980. Hogs sold under the Japanese contracts E 50 and E 55 will be covered if the returns above feed costs fall below the $35 level guaranteed under the program.

While the support payment will not be adjusted by the grade index received, adjustment will be made for carcass weight. Heavier hog carcasses will receive a proportionately

Alberta Emergency Stop-Loss Program For Hogs (cont'd)

higher support payment, while lighter carcasses will receive a proportionately lower support payment than the standard 170-pound carcass.

The program also provides for hogs sold on a liveweight basis. The same support payment per hundredweight of dress pork will apply. The conversion from liveweight to dressed weight will be based on a dressing percentage of 78 per cent.

- 30 -

May 19, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

'A Historical Sketch'
by J.L. Kerns

Few people are aware of the background and the growth of agricultural services.

In the 1890's farmers formed local district groups to solve school, public works, livestock, crop and fire control problems. These were called statute labor and fire districts. By 1900, there were several hundred of them in existence. In 1898 the St. Albert and Morinville districts were number 40. In 1907 the Local Improvement Act brought order and more regular boundaries to farming communities. The Noxious Weed Ordinance was also passed in 1907, facilitating the appointment of local weed inspectors. These weed inspectors, the road foreman and the local livestock pound keeper were the forerunners of the agricultural service system.

During the next 10 years many municipal districts were formed in the more settled parts of Alberta. These were usually 18 miles square and contained nine townships or 324 sections. Usually six councillors were appointed, each with a 9 x 6 mile district. These councils were responsible for collecting taxes, schools, road building, weed and pest control, herd laws, rural relief and livestock disease programs.

Many sparsely settled farming areas were not included in these M.D's but remained Local Improvement Districts (L.I.D.'s). As there was no local autonomy, these L.I.D.'s were controlled directly from the provincial Department of Agriculture in Edmonton. Summer weed inspectors were hired and sent out by the field crops branch.

In 1928 and 29 I worked for the M.D. of Stauffer, west of Three Hills, as weed inspector from May 1 to August 31 for a total salary of $200 per month. My car was a 1919 Model T, cut down into a truck. The worst weed problems were wild oats and Canada Thistle.

- (cont'd) -

Municipal Agricultural Services (cont'd)

As there was a substantial amount of sandy land in the area, the use of fall rye was the answer. It also helped to prevent soil drifting. One of the first weed control chemicals, Atlacide, was just becoming popular.

In 1930 I was appointed weed inspector in the L.I.D. centred at Magrath. The weed problems here were quite different. Irrigation had brought in such new weeds as hoary cress, leafy spurge and field bindweed. Sow thistle was also appearing in scattered patches.

The first road allowance seeding projects were started in the late 1920's. Stinkweed was often prevalent the year after roads were graded, and many councillors had noticed that when road shoulders and ditches were seeded down to crested wheat grass, weed and soil erosion problems were automatically solved.

After 1930 I worked for the field crops branch of the Alberta Department of Agriculture for 10 summers, as a weed supervisor in the Peace River and the northeastern area of the province. This work was independent of the DA service which was under the direct supervision of the livestock commissioner at the time. The field supervisors worked with local councils and in liaison with the DA's.

In the late 1930's co-operative programs involving grass and legume rotations to control weed and soil erosion and land improvement measures were set up with DA's who were now under their own branch. New cultural methods had also been established by this time. Cultivation and trash cover had replaced the plow-summerfallow idea.

By the 1940's, municipal authorities were becoming more extension orientated and programs of farmstead planting, stubble burning prevention and soil and water conservation were being practised.

I entered the DA Service at the beginning of the 1940's, and by the end of that decade, the county and large municipality system had been established.

- (cont'd) -

Municipal Agricultural Services (cont'd)

Agricultural service boards were set up with the aid of the field crops branch, and permanent service personnel were hired in most areas. The work was expanded to cover livestock disease, inoculation and pest control programs. Seed cleaning plants were built in all grain growing areas. Many individual projects were encouraged, and by the 1960's agricultural fieldmen were being recognized as an integral part of the municipal-departmental team. Much work was done on weed spraying demonstrations and research. Fertilizer recommendation and cultivation methods were improved. Training programs were developed and a unified approach to Alberta's farm problems was established.

About the Author:

1931-40 — (Summers) Employed by Field Crops Branch as Weed Inspector/Supervisor

1936-40 — (Winters) Dominion Provincial Youth Training Programs

1941-45 — District Agriculturist, Camrose

1945-51 — Instructor in Animal Husbandary and Farm Manager Vermilion School of Agriculture

1951-65 — District Agriculturist, Ponoka

1965 — District Agriculturist, Strathcona

1965-66 — Chairman Land Utilization Committee

1966-73 — Livestock Supervisor

1973-74 — Head of Horse Industry Branch

1974 — Retired

1978 — Received the Canadian Society of Extension Honourary Life Membership Award.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

May 19, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARM CASH RECEIPTS

Total Alberta farm cash receipts are predicted to be $2,793 million in 1980 compared with $2,835 million in 1979, according to Phil Jensen of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch.

However, relatively high prices for wheat and increased marketings are expected to result in a 34 per cent increase in farm cash receipts for this crop in 1980. Even though the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) has announced a smaller initial payment for wheat in the 1980-81 crop year, payments will average higher in the 1980 calendar year than was the case in 1979. Farm cash receipts from wheat are projected to be $579 million compared with $431 million in 1979.

Barley farm cash receipts in 1980 will be affected by an anticipated reduction in the movement of this crop to both international and domestic markets. Prices for CWB and domestic barley will average higher in the 1980 calendar year than in 1979, but these higher prices will not offset the reduction in marketings. Hence, farm cash receipts from barley are expected to decrease to $233 million compared with $252 million in 1979.

Farm cash receipts from rapeseed are expected to decrease slightly in 1980 compared with 1979. Marketings in this calendar year are expected to remain about the same as last year, but lower average prices will cause farm cash receipts to drop to $270 million compared with $313 million in 1979.

Farm cash receipts from both rye and flaxseed are expected to increase this year. Rye prices are up considerably compared with 1979 prices, and although flaxseed prices will average lower this year compared with last, high flaxseed marketings will boost farm cash receipts from this crop. They are predicted to be $15 million for rye and $22 million for flax, up

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta Farm Cash Receipts (cont'd)

from $12 million and $15 million respectively.

Alberta farmers are expected to receive approximately $20 million this year under the federal Western Grain Stabilization Program compared with $60 million in 1979.

Farm cash receipts from cattle are predicted to decrease slightly this year compared with last. Slaughter cattle prices should average about the same as those of last year but marketing have been decreasing. Since cattlemen will be rebuilding their herds this year, and both federally inspected slaughter animals and exports are expected to decline, farm cash receipts are expected to drop to $1,108 million compared with $1,227 million in 1979.

Farm cash receipts from hogs are also projected to drop this year. Alberta marketings are expected to be up by 5 to 10 per cent compared with 1979, and the average price is expected to drop to about $53 per hundredweight compared with $64.35 per hundredweight in 1979. Farm cash receipts from hogs are projected to be $143 million compared with 162 million in 1979.

On the other hand, farm cash receipts from dairy products are expected to show a steady increase in 1980. The increase in fluid milk sales plus formula-pricing has resulted in a steady growth in farm cash receipts, which are predicted to be $137 million this year compared with $122 million in 1979.

The realized net income of Alberta farmers in 1980 is predicted to be $352 million compared with $848 million in 1979. However, since realized net income in 1979 was up 47 per cent compared with 1978, this year's projected drop may not be as severe as it first appears. The 47 per cent increase recorded last year will tend to decrease this year's net income as farmers use available cash to replace machinery and other equipment. The higher machinery purchases will, in turn, cause an increase in depreciation and contribute to lower realized income.

May 19, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARLEY SITUATION

The supply/demand situation for barley is not expected to be quite as tight in the 1980/81 crop year as it is now, and prices could decline somewhat this fall, providing farmers receive rain before late May.

Les Lyster of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch reports that Statistics Canada's March 15 seeding intentions survey indicates that Canadian farmers plan to plant 11.7 million acres of barley this spring. This figure represents more than a 23 per cent increase over the 1979 acreage and almost a 9 per cent increase over the previous five-year average.

Alberta farmers indicated in the survey that they intend to plant just over 5.5 million acres of barley this year compared with an average of just over 5 million acres for the years 1975 – 79. This year's intended acreage is 18 per cent higher than the 4.7 million acres planted last year and 6 per cent more than the 1975 – 79 five-year provincial average. However, Alberta's 1979 barley acreage was the lowest since 1970.

"Based on a 10-year average yield of just over 41.5 bushels to the acre, we can expect Canadian barley production to be over 10.5 million tonnes this year," Mr. Lyster says. "On the basis of average yields, Alberta's production can be expected to be a little more than 5 million tonnes."

Although domestic barley prices this fall will be mainly influenced by the size of the 1980 crop, given the above yields and some anticipated reduction in the 1980 – 81 disappearance of barley, the supply/demand situation should not be as tight as it has been this year.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

May 19, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALFALFA STANDS SUSTAIN WINTER INJURY

Although many alfalfa fields in central and northern Alberta have shown evidence of good growth in the past three or four weeks, there are some fields which still show a potentially high risk for sustaining injury between now and mid-June.

Dr. J.S. McKenzie of Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge reports samples taken from alfalfa fields during the past winter indicated that 5 to 15 per cent of the plants in some fields had been winter-killed by mid-January, and that the vigor of other plants in these fields had been reduced by as much as 90 per cent. This lack of vigor means that the plants have a less than normal ability to compete with disease organisms and weeds. Even though the reduced vigor in such stands is minimized when the spring is early, warm and dry, as has been the case this year, some stands in central and northern areas still lack sufficient food reserves if injured to reinitiate crown buds for a second flush of growth. Dr. McKenzie says "I suspect that if some of these stands are harvested before the late bloom stage in June, they will probably not recover as rapidly after the first cutting as would normally be the case, and the yield in subsequent cuttings will be reduced."

He suggests that farmers who are concerned about their alfalfa stands dig up several plants from at least three or four locations in the field and check to see whether they produced very few crown buds this spring or whether there are crown buds just starting to come. If either of these situations are present, it would be wise to delay harvesting the alfalfa until the late bloom stage.

Dr. McKenzie also says he would appreciate it if anyone who believes he has a potential problem in his alfalfa stand would dig up four to five plants with four to six inches of root (no soil) from three separate locations in the field and send them to him. The plants

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alfalfa Stands Sustain Winter Injury (cont'd)

from each location should be put into a separate plastic bag and accompanied by a report stating the location of the field, the year the stand was seeded, the variety and last year's harvesting dates. Send them to Dr. J.S. McKenzie, Agriculture Canada Research Station, Box 29, Beaverlodge, TOH OCO.

- 30 -

AGRICULTURE NEWS RELEASE

Annual Plowing Match

The annual Alberta Plowing Match will be held in Wanham on June 19, 20 and 21st.

Wally Mar, the top winner at Wanham in 1978, won the Canadian later that year and came 30th in the World Championship in Ireland last fall. His brother, Doug Mar, and Stan Sather were first and second at Wanham in 1979. Mr. Sather came in the middle of the group at the Canadian last fall. Doug Mar won the right to compete in the World Championship in New Zealand in May of this year.

The Wanham match demonstrates some careful plowmanship, and, for added interest, it incorporates a machinery display and a tractor-pull.

- 30 -

May 19, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAIL AND TRUCK FREIGHT RATE INCREASES

Agricultural Transport Economist, Nabi Chandhary, reports that the following rail freight rate increases were announced during the first quarter of this year.

1. Live Cattle :

a) Rates on single deck cars were increased by an average of 13.9 per cent on April 1, 1980.

b) Rates on shipper double deck cars to all points in Ontario and Quebec have been increased by an average of 9.9 per cent from April 1, 1980 to March 31, 1981.

c) Rates on railway double deck cars to all points in Ontario and Quebec have been increased by an average of 9.5 per cent from April 1, 1980 to March 31, 1981.

d) Rates to Midhurst, Toronto and Allistan, Ontario, will be calculated by taking the rates to all points in Ontario and Quebec and duducting $80 on single deck and $149 on double deck cars from April 1, 1980 to March 31, 1981.

e) Rates to Midhurst, Toronto and Allistan will be increased by an average of 13.9 per cent on single deck and shipper double deck cars and by an average of 13.4 per cent on railway double deck cars from October 15, 1980 to December 31, 1980.

f) From October 15, 1980 to December 31, 1980, the CPR may provide two single deck cars at its double deck price plus $120 if it is unable to provide a double deck when requested to do so.

2. Dressed Meat:

Rates on dressed meat from Alberta points to Eastern Canadian markets were increased by 10 per cent on February 1, 1980.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Rail And Truck Freight Rate Increases (cont'd)

3. Agricultural Implements:

Rates on farm machinery and implements were increased by 10 per cent on February 15, 1980.

4. Alfalfa Meal Pellets:

Domestic rates on alfalfa meal pellets were increased by 12 per cent on shipments within Western Canada and by 10 per cent on shipments to Eastern Canadian markets on April 15, 1980.

5. Chemicals:

Rates on chemicals were increased by 10 per cent on April 1, 1980.

6. Fruit and Vegetables:

Rates on fruit and vegetables were increased by 10 per cent on April 15, 1980.

7. Grain and Grain Products:

Rates on grain and grain products were increased by 10 per cent on April 15, 1980.

8. Seed:

Rates on seed were increased by 10 per cent on April 1, 1980.

B.C. Rail Rates on Feed Grains

Truck competitive rates on feed grains were increased by 12.5 per cent on February 1, 1980. The non-competitive rates for feed grains, prepared feeds and millfeeds were increased by 13 per cent on February 1, 1980.

Truck Freight Rate Increases

Truck transportation rates on the inter and intraprovincial movement of agricultural commodities were increased by 6 to 8 per cent on January 2, 1980. The main commodities affected were feed, fertilizers, fertilizer materials, fruit and vegetables (cold pack, frozen in barrels or boxes) fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh and frozen meat, dressed, fresh and frozen poultry, seed and twine.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLEABEETLE WARNING

Alberta rapeseed growers can expect heavy fleabeetle infestations this year, and serious damage to their crops unless they take prompt action to control these insects as soon as the situation warrants it.

Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, explains that because of the early spring, the fleabeetles have been waiting to attack rape crops for at least three weeks now. He says the beetles are very active and points out that crops that have been stressed because of lack of moisture cannot withstand as much defoliation as those growing under favorable conditions. He also points out that the risk of damage will be greatest in those areas of the province which had beetles last year, but that all rape crops should be checked this year.

Fleabeetles are tiny, shiny black or striped insects that jump vigorously when disturbed. Since they overwinter as adults, they are ready to devour rape seedlings as soon as they emerge. The beetles start by eating small holes in the leaves. Unless they are checked, they gradually enlarge these holes until the whole plant is denuded of its foliage.

Mr. Dolinski stresses that even rape crops grown from seed that was treated to control fleabeetles should be checked every day until they reach a height of six to eight inches. He recommends spraying rape crops if 20 per cent of the cotyledon leaves are damaged. He also strongly recommends that growers check the whole of their fields this year as soon as the seedlings emerge as opposed to just checking the edges. The beetles will be able to fly into the middle of a field as soon as there is anything there to feed on if the present warm weather persists. Hence, damage to the entire field is likely to be much more prevalent if the beetles are not controlled than has been the case in the last few years.

Mr. Dolinski recommends using Guthion, Furadan Flowable, Supracide or Malathion for spraying rapeseed crops. Any of them will do a good job, but it may be necessary to spray several times because they all have a short residual life.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

May 19, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AERIAL HERBICIDE APPLICATIONS

An increasing number of farmers are turning to aerial herbicide spraying to avoid compacting the soil and trampling the crop which occurs with conventional ground spraying equipment.

This is the opinion of Shaffeek Ali, weed control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, who points out that aerial spraying also makes it easier to spray the crop when it is at the correct stage of maturity. You do not have to worry, for example about your fields being too wet.

According to the Alberta Aerial Applicators Association, research studies show that an 11" x 36" tractor tire on a 50-foot boom sprayer causes a 4.5 per cent loss of grain. In an average crop of 40 bushels to the acre and at a price of $3 per bushel, such a grain loss would represent a loss of $5.40 per acre.

The aerial applicators association also claims that, compared with ground spraying, the more even coverage of fine droplets, forced down by the downwash of the aircraft, gives the chemical the best chance to work.

If you are interested in aerial spraying this year, ask your district agriculturist for the name of the aerial applicator in your area.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOREIGN COMMODITY ENQUIRIES RECEIVED BY INTERNATIONAL MARKETING

In one month the following countries directed enquiries to Alberta Agriculture's international marketing sector about the commodities listed. All the enquiries were passed on to the private sector.

Country	Commodity
United States (for Saudi Arabia)	157,000 Holsteins and 430,000 chickens (broilers and layers) and all related buildings and processing equipment.
Guatemala	6,000 vials of semen.
Taiwan	Deer antlers.
Europe	Peat Moss.
Philippines	Breeding swine
Japan	Peat moss; poultry; bottled water; rapeseed meal information; bonemeal (steamed); feeds; dehy alfalfa pellets; mashed potato mix and honey.
Hong Kong	Durum flour, honey, corn syrup, powdered and evaporated milk; poultry products; pork shoulders and butts; pork tongues and stomachs; ultra heat-treated juices and milk; crude rapeseed oil, salt and frozen French fries.
Singapore	Flour; cake mixes; poultry products; canned hams; rapeseed meal; powdered and evaporated milk; snack foods, Canola margarine and shortening; frozen French fries and vegetables; Canadian whisky; honey; bottled water; fresh eggs and yeast.
Honolulu	Fancy meats; peat moss; rapeseed meal; processed chicken meat; flour and flour products, extruded dog food and feed ingredients.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Foreign Commodity Enquiries Received By International Marketing (cont'd)

The international marketing sector helped to arrange the following sales to the countries listed.

Country	Commodity	Dollar Value
Korea	165 Holsteins	$200,000
U.S.A.	5 truckloads of cookies	$106,000
Hong Kong	2 containers of margarine	$ 25,000
Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore	3 containers of honey	$100,000

- 30 -

May 19, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO-YEAR DIPLOMA COURSE IN AGRI BUSINESS

Fairview College, located in the Peace River region of Alberta, will be offering a two-year Diploma Program in Agribusiness next September.

It was developed by the college with the help of representatives from various agricultural service industries in response to the latter's increasing need for qualified personnel. An informal survey of employers represented at the first meeting of the Agribusiness Advisory Committee in December, 1978 showed that there were more than 100 potential employment opportunities each year for graduates with an agribusiness background.

The committee includes representatives from national and provincial grain marketing organizations, meat packers, banks, implement dealerships, fertilizer manufacturers and government agencies.

In the first year of the program students will take courses from a core curriculum which emphasizes such business subjects as accounting, finance, marketing, human relations, business correspondence and supervision and labor relations plus introductory courses in soils, agricultural economics, plant science and animal science. Students in their second year can specialize in agricultural mechanics, crop production, farm management or livestock production subjects, depending upon their career preference.

Employers on the Agribusiness Advisory Committee all agreed that the curriculum should satisfy their need for qualified "generalists" and, at the same time, meet the varied specific requirements of each industry. The spectrum is very broad, but sufficiently detailed to give a potential employee a good base for employment in any agricultural or related industry.

The final preparatory meeting, which took place in Edmonton in April, examined the question of sponsorship for students and discussed specific employment opportunities for

- (cont'd) -

Two-Year Diploma Course In Agribusiness (cont'd)

graduates. A number of the participants specified specific employment opportunities that they had available for graduates from the diploma program.

This year's course will commence on September 2 and run to April 24, 1981. The tuition fee will be approximately $150 per semester or $300 a year. Space is available in the residence at a cost of $60 per month.

Anybody interested in taking the Diploma Program in Agribusiness should contact the Registrar, Fairview College, Box 3000, Fairview, Alberta, TOH 1LO. Telephone: (403) 835 – 2213.

- 30 -

OUTDOOR FLORALIES

With the holding of the Floralies internationales from May 31 to September 1, 1980, Ile Notre-Dame, built in the St. Lawrence River for Expo 67, will begin its new vocation as a permanent floral parkland, incorporating the most recent developments in contemporary landscape art. After the festival, the island will retain the permanent floral display, comprising a selection of the best kinds of trees, shrubbery and cultivated flowers, and become a recreational area devoted to increasing the awareness of the general public about ecological and cultural matters.

For information contact Les Floralies Internationales de Montréal, Bureau du Commissaire Général, 360, rue Saint-Jacques, Montréal (Quebec) Canada, H2Y 1P5.

- 30 -

May 19, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRADE DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL MARKETING GROUP APPOINTED

Louis A. Normand has been appointed international trade director responsible for assisting Alberta suppliers of agricultural products and technical services to Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. He succeeds Alan Curtin who resigned recently.

Mr. Normand joined the Government of Alberta in 1977 with a background in financial and marketing management in the private sector. The dual functions in international marketing of senior financial officer and marketing officer in respect to Alberta's agricultural consultants have further prepared Mr. Normand for this new role of extending trade and technology to developing countries.

A competition is currently underway to replace Mr. Normand as senior financial officer in the international marketing group.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

AGRI-NEWS

JUN 10 1980

May 26, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

The First Weed Spraying And Use Of Fertilizer In Alberta (Jubilee Series) 1
Three Alberta Plants Receive Assistance 5
Discover Australia Tours 6
Second Quarter Cattle Situation 8
Hog Outlook 10
Rapeseed Outlook 12
Farmers' Markets For Home-Grown Quality 14
Plant Science Field Day 16
Ranch Day Agenda 17
Stueckle Combine Clinic Scheduled For Thorsby 18
Regional Home Management Specialist Appointed For Grande Prairie 19

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE FIRST WEED SPRAYING AND USE OF FERTILIZER IN ALBERTA

by Kenneth H. Walker

By the late 1920's, the Cominco smelter at Trail, B.C., was sending tons of sulphur dioxide up its chimneys, which when combined with moisture in the air, fell to earth as sulphurous acid. It was toxic to plants and is now called acid rain.

Trail was a desolate place at that time — no gardens, lawns or shrubs, and dead trees on the hillsides. The local people tolerated this condition, realizing their jobs depended upon the smelter, but this was not so a few miles south down the valley. When Idaho fruit growers threatened Cominco with a million dollar law suit, the company hired Dr. R.E. Neidig, director of agriculture for Cominco, to find a use for sulphur dioxide, probably as sulphuric (battery) acid. Dr. Neidig considered the grain growing areas east of the Rockies as a possible market for sulphuric acid, either in the form of a weed killer or for treating phosphate rock to make triple super phosphate fertilizer.

Spraying fields to kill weeds was unheard of in 1930, and Prairie soils were considered fertile and not in need of fertilizer. However, Dr. Neidig found allies in O.S. Longman, principal of the Raymond School of Agriculture at the time, H.A. Craig, deputy minister of the Alberta Department of Agriculture and in B.C. Sugar Ltd. B.C. Sugar had taken over the Utah-Idaho Sugar Factory at Raymond in 1931 and was having difficulty getting farmers to grow enough beets to keep the factory running. Higher beet yields through the use of fertilizers could provide more profit for the growers and, hopefully, save the Alberta sugar beet industry. Thus the Raymond school staff, under Mr. Longman's supervision, were involved in setting out demonstration plots.

Grain and beet test plots indicated good responses to triple super phosphate fertilizer in 1930. Dr. Neidig and Mr. Longman, with the help of various organizations, arranged with 50 beet growers from Taber to Hillspring to have demonstration plots on their farms the following year. About 100 grain growers were also ready to try the new fertilizer. As for

- (cont'd) -

The First Weed Spraying And Use Of Fertilizer In Alberta (cont'd)

weed spraying, farmers who wanted to try it on their fields could contact either the Raymond school office or the municipal office at High River or Blackie.

The weed sprayer arrived from France during that winter. It was in the form of a cart to be drawn by a team of horses. The sprayer consisted of a 100-gallon lead-lined tank mounted on two large steel wheels and equipped with two eight-foot booms, which folded upwards for transportation. The nozzles were made of acid resistant metal. The spray pressure was provided by two rubber bellows activated by the axle under the tank. The sprayer operated well, and gave little trouble.

It was pulled behind a 1928 Chevrolet truck from farm to farm and from High River to Blackie. Its steel wheels on the washboard gravel roads meant that one had to go very slowly. This situation was improved by wiring old tire casings around the steel wheels. Upon arriving at a farm, the general procedure was to hitch the farmer's team to the sprayer and drive it to his stock watering tank. Here the sprayer was filled with a bucket. Then back to the truck to add 4 per cent acid and out to the edge of the weedy field. The booms were lowered and the plot sprayed and staked. Then back for more acid and water.

Since sulphuric acid is not a selective weed killer, it burned both the crops and the weeds indiscriminately, but new shoots would come from the grain sheath in a couple of weeks. Annual weed seedlings, such as stinkweed and mustard, were burned off by the acid and did not come back.

Five 32-foot strips were sprayed with check strips of equal width left in between. Rates of 4 to 8 per cent acid were used. The lower rate did not kill annual seedlings too well, and the higher rate was quite harsh on the crop.

One day I checked a Japanese farmer's sprayed field on the Milk River Ridge south of Raymond a week after it had been sprayed. The five brown strips across the green field

The First Weed Spraying And Use Of Fertilizer In Alberta (cont'd)

looked terrible, and the farmer was not friendly, to say the least! All I could do was to get into my car and leave. After that incident I did not visit any sprayed fields until at least two or three weeks after they had been sprayed. By that time new leaves had grown from the grain sheath and the strip looked quite green again.

Tom Findlay's farm on Tongue Creek north of High River had been a stopping place along the trail where horses were watered and fed oats containing weed seeds. Consequently, his field with all its stink weed seedlings was a good place to set out a trial. I checked his plots in late July 1931, after the wheat market had dropped very low. I asked Tom to come with me to look at the plots, but he made no move. He finally said : "If you think I'm going to do all the work you did for a mere four or five bushels of wheat worth two bits per bushel, you're plumb crazy." At this time Dr. Neidig decided that weed spraying was a blind alley, and no yields were taken from the plots.

While I was setting up beet plots with Bill Valgardsen of Taber, he remarked that "tight" Alberta was taking 12 acres off his field along the CPR for a highway and only allowing him $75 per acre. "That is a good price, Bill," I said, as very little land in Alberta had sold for more. "Not enough for this good beet land as I have kept accurate records of receipts and expenses, including a fair deduction for my labor and management," he replied. "Net income in the poorest year has been $10 per acre, when capitalized at 5 per cent or a factor of 20, the value is $200 per acre. Alberta should have given me at least half the value of my land. But no profit for me to sue 'big Alberta' for a relatively small amount." A few months after this the wheat market plunged and a down slide in land prices followed.

Sugar beets even in those days were an expensive crop to grow It took about $8 worth of seed per acre and lots of expensive hand labor for thinning, hoeing and topping. This brought total costs to about $80 per acre (equivalent to 8 tons of beets). Yields at that time

- (cont'd) -

The First Weed Spraying And Use of Fertilizer In Alberta (cont'd)

averaged only eight or nine tons per acre. There was a considerable variation in yield between districts and between growers in the same district with the Taber - Barnwell area showing the most promise. Phosphate fertilizer added approximately two tons to yields at a cost of $4 or $5 for the fertilizer and its application. This made sugar beets an attractive crop, especially after grain prices plunged in the summer of 1931. Now lots of wheat growers wanted to grow beets, but B.C. Sugar took few of them. The company favored its faithful growers who had produced beets in past years and allowed them to increase their acreage.

About the Author:

Mr. Walker was instructor at the Raymond School of Agriculture at the time it ceased operations in the fall of 1931. He and his wife, Jessie, moved back to Edmonton where he worked part-time at the University of Alberta and completed his master's degree. From 1937 to 1950 he worked in the Youngstown district as special areas agriculture fieldman, and subsequently as district agriculturist at Strathmore for 17 years. He retired in 1967 and now lives at Penticton, B.C.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

May 26, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE ALBERTA PLANTS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

Three more Alberta plants are to receive assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement. They are Alco Feed Processing Ltd., Pincher Creek Co-operative Association Ltd., and Alta-Farm Natural Produce Ltd.

Alco Feed Processing Ltd will receive $14,186 to construct a new plant near Brooks for processing high moisture barley and forage silages. The estimated capital to be employed is $125,538, and approximately four new jobs are expected to be created in the plant's third year of operation.

Pincher Creek Co-operative Association Ltd. will receive $64,510 to establish a bakery and meat processing operation in its new shopping centre in Pincher Creek. The estimated capital to be employed is $379,470, and at least 10 full-time jobs are expected to be created.

Alta-Farm Natural Produce Ltd. will receive $99,986 to establish a speciality cheese plant at Leduc that will use both cow's and goat's milk. The estimated capital to be employed is $434,722, and the plant is expected to employ about 10 people by its third year of operation.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement is designed to provide assistance to nutritive processing plants that want to expand, modernize or become established in rural Alberta. It is administered and funded jointly by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISCOVER AUSTRALIA TOURS

photo by Qantas

Why Not Join Me In My Tree?

Have you always had a yearning to see rural Australia? Here is your chance!

Betty and Bruce McGhan have organized two Discover Australia Tours which leave Edmonton, Alberta, on November 21, and return on December 14. Mr. McGhan is a sheep technician with the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission.

Both tours have been planned specifically for livestock producers from anywhere in Canada, and the main difference between them is that Tour No. 1 participants will be transported from one place to another in Australia by private light aircraft. It will be the first of its kind to be offered to a group of Canadians. Tour No.2 participants will be transported by coach and commercial airlines.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Discover Australia Tours (cont'd)

Among the highlights of Tour No.1 will be visits to working sheep and cattle stations, the Opal Mines in Coober Pedy, Ayers Rock in the Outback, the historic Tyntynder Homestead, the largest pheasant farm in Australia, Port Arthur Via Tasman Arch and Eagle Hawk Neck and some first class wineries. Participants will also see the Ord River irrigation area, a newly established sugar farm and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization's tropical agriculture farm where forage crops from many places in the world are tested. Among the cruises planned for this tour will be one to the picturesque Green Island which is one of two authentic coral islands in the Great Barrier Reef.

Tour No.2 will include visits to Australian farms and agricultural industry facilities and meetings with department of agriculture officials who will provide specific information on cotton, cattle, sheep, horse breeding, etc. Participants in this tour will also visit a well known horse breeder, one of Australia's leading dairy farms, a merino sheep property, an old gold mining city, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef and Sea World Park on the Gold Coast.

The cost of Tour No.1 is $5,500. The cost of Tour No.2 is $4,900. Both prices are based on sharing twin accommodation and include full air fare from your home town or city, tour escorts from Canada, all transfers, first class hotels, baggage and porterage charges, all meals except when stated otherwise, all admission fees to entertainments, etc., inter-air charges, qualified Australian tour guides and all local taxes and gratuities.

You can get a detailed itinerary of either or both tours and application forms from North West Tours, Room 205, 10049 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 1T7. Telephone: (403) 420 - 6050. There is also a toll-free Watts Number for Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. It is 1- 800 - 661 - 6536.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND QUARTER CATTLE SITUATION

A1 and A2 steers at Calgary are predicted to average in the neighbourhood of $75 per hundredweight and possibly higher during the second quarter of this year.

According to Bill Gray, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, the Montreal wholesale price bottomed out at $1.30 per pound, and then moved up to $1.32 per pound on deliveries in the week of April 21 – 25. He says packers report very considerable interest from retailers at current prices.

At the present time packers are having to pay more for slaughter cattle and hoping that they will be able to get an increase in wholesale prices to cover this added cost.

During the week of April 28 – May 3, the Toronto wholesale price settled at $1.34 per pound for A1 and A2 steer carcasses. The trade is anticipating a similar increase in Montreal prices, which would place A1 and A2 steer carcasses at $1.36 per pound. Mr. Gray says it remains to be seen how consumers will react when these higher prices are passed along to the retail level. He also says that if the movement of beef remains good, wholesale prices may go even higher.

On the other hand, demand will probably back off during the summer as it did in the summers of 1978 and 1979. It is expected to do so again this summer because consumers will continue to have the option of purchasing relatively cheap poultry and pork products.

While the demand for beef is expected to decline after June, the available supply remains in doubt because U.S. feeders have been reluctant to place cattle on feed. If supplies drop sufficiently, prices are likely to remain reasonably good during the third quarter of the year.

Mr. Gray expects prices to average in the low $70 per hundredweight range during the July-September period in view of the number of cattle currently on feed, anticipated pork

- (cont'd) -

Second Quarter Cattle Situation (cont'd)

supplies and the economic recession in the United States.

Second quarter cattle slaughter in Alberta is expected to be the same as last year. Total cattle on feed on April 1 was estimated to be 902,000 head, representing a 3 per cent decline from the same period in 1979. The number of steers on feed is estimated to be 608,000, down 5 per cent from the same period last year; while cows and heifers on feed are estimated to have increased by one per cent to a total of 294,000 head.

- 30 -

May 26, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG OUTLOOK

The normal seasonal price pattern for hogs suggests that prices will increase sharply in May, June and July from their seasonal low in April.

Bill Gray, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says "We can expect Edmonton hog prices to be in the neighbourhood of $50 per hundredweight and perhaps even higher during the above period. However, overall returns for 1980 are expected to continue relatively poor.

Agriculture Canada has forecast the second quarter hog slaughter to increase by 15 per cent to an average of 241,000 head per week, while Alberta's slaughter is expected to increase by 12 per cent to an average of 30,500 head per week.

Canadian output in the second half of this year is expected to average 227,000 head per week, representing an increase of one per cent compared with the second half of 1979. Alberta's slaughter is predicted to increase by 3 per cent compared with the same period in 1979 and to average 28,000 head per week.

Mr. Gray says the forecasted decline in Canadian slaughter reflects the lower farrowing intentions reported in the January 1 survey of hogs on Canadian farms. He expects production to decline as the year advances.

The United States Department of Agriculture has forecast commercial pork production in that country to total 4.08 billion pounds in the second quarter and to drop to 4 billion pounds in the third quarter. These second and third quarter forecasts represent year to year increases of 9 and 5 per cent respectively.

Mr. Gray points out that, although the rate of increase is declining, pork supplies during the first three quarters of 1980 will continue to be high. However, production in the fourth quarter could be equal to or below that of last year, depending upon actual farrowings

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Hog Outlook (cont'd)

in the March – May period.

Pork production in Canada is expected to follow a similar pattern to that of the United States with supplies during the first three quarters of the year being above those of a year ago and beginning to stabilize in the fourth quarter. Based on the most recent survey (April 1) of producers' farrowing intentions, production in expected to decline by approximately 9 per cent in the first quarter of 1981.

In view of the facts that production increased continuously during 1979 and increased still further this year, 1980 is expected to be another year of record high pork disappearance in Canada. Statistics Canada estimates that in 1979 the per capita disappearance of pork totalled 65.5 pounds on a carcass weight basis. Although Canadian pork exports increased and imports declined relative to 1978, the 21 per cent increase in domestic production reported by Statistics Canada, was enough to lead to an almost 8 pound per capita increase in domestic disappearance.

While increasing supplies of poultry, particularly turkey, will continue to compete with pork, there is little likelihood of any significant increase in available beef supplies. Hence, the North American hog industry will continue to benefit from consumers substituting a large volume of pork for beef.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED OUTLOOK

The outlook for rapeseed in the 1980-81 crop year is not encouraging.

David Walker, head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, says the outlook for rapeseed prices during the 1980-81 crop year are not favorable because of burdensome world supplies of oilseed from 1979-80 crops. Prospects for a large 1980 European rapeseed crop is of particular concern plus the decision by the United States (as a result of the Soviet embargo) to use its aid program to move grain into third world markets. Mr. Walker believes these situations could cause severe competition for commercial rapeseed markets, and that the Japanese market is likely to remain critical to Canada.

If rapeseed export and domestic crush levels, which have been running at about 12.5 and 20 per cent respectively above the same period last year, are maintained during the balance of the present crop year, the carryover into the new crop year will be about 1.3 million tonnes. However, with a 25 per cent acreage reduction, indicated by Statistics Canada's seeding intentions survey, this year's crop is likely to be under 3 million tonnes. This would reduce total supplies for the 1980–81 crop year.

In view of the generally depressed state of the international oilseed market and less than favorable demand prospects, Mr. Walker does not anticipate significant gains in the volume of rapeseed marketed during the coming crop year.

Even though the oversupply of rapeseed in Canada would disappear if there should be a drought this summer, the Canadian situation alone would not have a significant impact on the world oilseed situation. Consequently, Mr. Walker believes that it is possible this year for Canadian rapeseed producers to have both a poor yield and relatively unfavorable prices at the same time.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Rapeseed Outlook (cont'd)

The flaxseed outlook is similar to that of rapeseed, although the supply is not as burdensome as it is for most other vegetable oilseed crops. This oversupply of oilseeds resulted from the Soviet Union making substantial purchases of linseed oil from the Argentine in the early part of this year. Mr. Walker believes that the demand for linseed oil-based products e.g., printer's ink and high quality paints, is likely to be more adversely affected by anticipated recessionary economic conditions than the edible vegetable oils.

- 30 -

May 26, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMERS' MARKETS FOR HOME-GROWN QUALITY

Whether you are a tourist or a regular shopper, you can be sure of a warm welcome at any of Alberta's farmers' markets. You can also be sure of getting high quality, fresh products from the garden, farm or kitchen.

Following is a list of farmers' markets, their locations, the days and hours they are open and their telephone numbers. However, since some markets are not open every week, it might be as well to check before you go.

Town or City:	Location:	Day(s) Open:	Hours:	Telephone:
Airdrie	Scheduled to open in 1980			948-5907
Alberta Beach	Agriplex	Sunday	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	924-3094
Athbasca	Curling Rink	Saturday	12:30 PM - 2:30 PM	675-4972
Barrhead	Tomboy Store Parking Lot	Saturday	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	674-5414
Bashaw	Fairgrounds	Thursday	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	372-2304
Bon Accord	Arena	Wednesday	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	921-3589
Bonnyville	Agri Plex	Saturday	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	826-3914
Boyle	Arena	Saturday	Morning	525-2342
Breton	Curling Rink	Saturday	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	696-2466
Calmar	Arena	Friday	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	985-3503
*Camrose	Drill Hall, Fairgrounds	Saturday	8:00 AM - Noon	672-4624
Carseland	Recreation Centre	Saturday (2 per month)	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	934-4127
Castor	Arena	1st & 3rd Thursday, each month	Noon - 4:00 PM	882-2342
Crossfield	Pete Knight Memorial Centre	Thursday	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	946-5959
Drayton Valley	Curling Rink	Wednesday	Noon - 4:00 PM	542-4017
Drumheller	Memorial Arena	Saturday	10:00 AM - Noon	823-6458
Eckville	Multi-purpose building	Friday	10:00 AM - Noon	746-2380
Edmonton:				
Abbotsfield Mall	3210 - 118 Avenue	Thursday	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	477-9121
Capilano Mall	98 Avenue at 50 Street	Saturday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	465-0987
*City Market	10165 - 97 Street	Mon-Sat. until June 15 then Wed-Sat.	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	428-4389
Fort Edmonton	½ mile west of the Quesnell Bridge	Sunday & holidays	Noon - 5:00 PM	436-5565
North Town Mall	97 Street & 137 Ave.	Saturday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	475-1673
Edson	Legion Hall	Friday	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	693-2481
Evansburg	Lounge in Arena	Saturday	10:30 AM - 1:00 PM	727-2211
*Fairview	Legion Hall	Saturday	10:00 AM - Noon	835-2012
Father	Church Basement	Thursday or Saturday	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	323-4662
Fort Assiniboine	Curling Rink	Friday	Starting 1:30 PM	584-3890
*Fort McMurray	To be announced	Saturday	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	743-2191
Gibbons	Arena	Thursday	5:00 PM - 8:30 PM	923-2395

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Farmers' Markets For Home-Grown Quality (cont'd)

Town or City:	Location:	Day(s) Open:	Hours	Telephone
Grand Centre	Arena	Thursday	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	594-2078
*Grande Prairie	Exhibit Hall, Fairgrounds	Saturday	10:00 AM - Noon	532-5270
Hanna	Mr. Soft Drink	Friday	Starting at 1:00 PM	854-2224
Hardisty	Arena	Saturday	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	888-2287
High Level	Watch for Signs	Friday	Starting at 2:00 PM	–
Hines Creek	Arena	Alternate Sundays	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	494-2183
Hughenden	Please watch for local advertising			
Innisfail	Arena	Thursday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	227-3512
Irricana	Community Hall	Wednesday	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	935-4613
Josephburg	Moyer Recreation Centre	Wednesday	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	998-2975
Kinuso	Fairgrounds	Homecoming Fair, August	–	829-2251
Lac La Biche	Recreation Grounds	Friday	Starting at 3:30 PM	623-7006
Lacombe	Memorial Centre Parking Lot	Friday	9:30 AM - 1:00 PM	782-3822
Leduc	Arena	Thursday	12:00 PM - 4:00 PM	986-3787
Lethbridge	Whoop Up Pavilion	Saturday	9:00 AM - Sell out	328-4491
Lloydminster	Lloyd Mall Parking Lot	Thursday	4:00 PM - 9:00 PM	825-2737
Mannville	Park	1st & 3rd Friday each month	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	763-3535
Medicine Hat	Between 304 St. S.E. in the 600 Block	Monday - Saturday	8:00 AM - Evening	–
Morinville	Arena	Thursday	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	939-4782
Okotoks	Arena	Saturday	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	938-7820
Olds	Closed for 1980; watch for re-opening in 1981			556-8121
Peace River	West end of Bridge	Daily	11:00 AM - 7:00 PM	624-4061
Pincher Creek	Arena	Alternate Fridays	Noon - 4:00 PM	627-4914
Ponoka	Farmers' Market Hall	Wednesday	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	783-6266
Provost	Agriculture Building	Friday	3:00 PM - 8:00 PM	753-2174
Radway	Scheduled to open in spring, 1980			736-3665
Red Deer	Exhibition Grounds	Saturday	8:00 AM - 12:30 PM	346-6443
Redwater	Legion Hall	3rd Saturday each month	Noon - 4:00 PM	735-3582
Rimbey	Fairgrounds	Saturday	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	843-2837
Rocky Mountain House	Stampede Grounds	Saturday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	845-2909
Rycroft	Scheduled to open in 1980			765-3778
St. Paul	Recreation Centre	Friday	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	645-2518
Sangudo	Elks Hall	2nd Saturday each month	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	785-2383
Seba Beach	Pavilion	Saturday	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	797-2129
Sedgewick	Arena	Alternate Saturdays	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	384-2191
Sherwood Park	Hall at Spruce Ave. & Fir Street	Wednesday	6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	467-3937
Slave Lake	Pot Pourri Mall	Saturday	Starting at 10:00 AM	829-2251
Smoky Lake	Agricultural Complex	Varies	10:00 AM - Noon	656-2463
Spruce Grove	Co-op Mall	Saturday	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	962-2124
Stettler	Arena Lobby	–	8:00 AM - Noon	742-2793
Stony Plain	Community Centre	Saturday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	963-6711
Strathmore	1½ miles north of Husky Service on #1 Hwy	Saturday	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	934-4433
Thorsby	Ukrainian Hall	Saturday	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	789-4162
*Tofield	Community Hall	2nd Friday each month	Starting at 2:00 PM	662-2651
Vauxhall	Arena	Tuesday	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	654-2811
*Vegreville	Centennial Building	Friday	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	632-2414
*Vermilion	Elks Hall	Tuesday	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM	–
Viking	Hall	Thursday	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	336-2190
*Vilna	Arena	Saturday	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	636-2175
Wabamun	Community Hall	Alternate Sundays	1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	892-2106
Wainwright	Scheduled to open in July, 1980			842-2433
Westlock	Curling Rink	Friday	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	349-3346
Wetaskiwin	Drill Hall	Friday	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	352-4089
Whitecourt	Parking Lot next to Freddy's Motel	Saturday	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	778-2965
Wildwood	Fairgrounds	Friday	Please check locally	325-3864

* Open year round. Location or hours may change in winter; please check locally.

Farmer's Markets For Home-Grown Quality (cont'd)

Following is a guide to the products that you can expect to find at a farmers' market and the approximate time they usually first appear at the market.

Mid to late May — Asparagus, green onions, radish, bedding plants
Mid to late June — Rhubarb, strawberries, lettuce, broccoli
Early July — Summer squash, raspberries, cabbage, peas, BC fruit
Mid to late July — Beans, beets, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, tomatoes
Early August — Corn
Mid August — Celery, cooking onions, rutabagas, winter squash
September — Brussels sprouts, pumpkin
November and December — Christmas baking, decorations, crafts
Year round — Eggs, honey, jams and jellies, mushrooms, fish, poultry, houseplants, crafts.

You can obtain more information about these markets by contacting the Commodity Development Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8. (Telephone: 427 - 4017).

- 30 -

PLANT SCIENCE FIELD DAY

The University of Alberta's Department of Plant Science will hold its annual field day at Parkland University Farm, 72 Avenue and 114 Street, Edmonton on Wednesday, July 16, 1980.

- 30 -

May 26, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RANCH DAY AGENDA

Ranch Day, sponsored by the University of Alberta's Department of Animal Science, will be held at the Beef Cattle Research Station at Kinsella (approximately 90 miles southeast of Edmonton) on July 25, 1980.

The agenda will include: Wintering Cows Without Water — Dr. B.A. Young, professor, Department of Animal Science; Grain Feeding Culled Cows — W.C. Graham, graduate student, Department of Animal Science; Dark Cutting Among Virgin Bulls - Dr. M.A. Price, associate professor, Department of Animal Science, Meat Quality — Dr. Z.J. Hawrysh, professor, Faculty of Home Economics; Hormone Concentrations in Double-Muscled Cattle — J.B. Basarab, graduate student, Department of Animal Science; Reproduction in Double - Muscled Cows — R.A. Strath, graduate student, Department of Animal Science; Kinsella Recollections — Frank Jacobs, Stockman's Memorial Foundation, Calgary; The Kinsella Experiment — Dr. Roy Berg, professor and chairman, Department of Animal Science; and Kinsella and the Rancher — Sherm Ewing, past president, Western Stockgrowers' Association.

The program will also include a welcoming address from Dallas Schmidt, Minister of Agriculture, and Dr. Myer Horowitz, president of the University of Alberta as well as tours of the ranch and its facilities, a pancake breakfast, a noon lunch and a beef barbeque and social.

Further details can be obtained from Clare Findlay (ranch manager) at 336 - 2328 or Roy Berg (Department of Animal Science chairman) at 432 - 3235.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

May 26, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STUECKLE COMBINE CLINIC SCHEDULED FOR THORSBY

Alberta Agriculture's Leduc extension office will be featuring Ray Stueckle's Combine Clinic at the Thorsby Community Hall on June 11. It will start at 9.30 a.m. and finish at 4.30 p.m.

Mr. Stueckle, who has conducted many clinics in both Canada and the United States and who is the author of "Combine Setting for Better Harvesting", will conduct the clinic at Thorsby. Among the topics he will cover are "How to Balance the Air on the Sieves"; " Making the Loader Feed Evenly", "Reducing the Number of Damaged Kernels and Unthreshed Heads" and "How to Adjust a Combine to Correct Walker Loss".

Farmers interested in attending this clinic are asked to preregister by June 6 (to allow for lunch arrangements) with their district agriculturist or with Elmer Bittner, district agriculturist , Box 248 Leduc, Alberta (Telephone: 986-2251).

The cost of the Ray Stueckle Combine Clinic is $20 per person, which includes lunch. Please make cheques payable to the Leduc Extension Office, and remember that, because of limited space, applicants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

May 26, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL HOME MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST APPOINTED FOR GRANDE PRAIRIE

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Eileen Klein to the position of regional home management specialist at Grande Prarie.

Ms. Klein will work with other specialists in the area to develop educational programs and to provide information related to consumer education and family resource management.

She was born in Kelowna, British Columbia, and grew up on a small farm in the Ellison district. She received her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of British Columbia in 1976, having specialized in family studies.

Ms. Klein joined Alberta Agriculture following graduation and took her district economist training at Lamont. She has spent the last three years as district home economist at Lac La Biche.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

AGRI-NEWS

AL 1 69

JUL 02 1980

June 2, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Farm Labor Programs In The 1950's (Jubilee Series) 1

Low Pressure Center Pivot Irrigation 3

Alberta Farmers Still Have Pasture Problems. 6

Suggested Beef Cow Management For Pasture And Hay Shortages 8

Poisonous Plants Still A Threat 10

Agricultural Vehicles Affected By Highway Traffic Amendment Act 11

1980 Feeders' Day Agenda 13

Alberta Women's Week Anniversary 15

Helping Children Help Themselves 16

District Home Economist Appointed For St. Paul. 17

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

June 2, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM LABOR PROGRAMS IN THE 1950'S

by J.D. Jantzie

Looking back at the seemingly serious moments in agricultural development in Alberta certainly tickles one's funny bone today!

The provincial Farm Labor Program of the 1950's was probably one of the most effective and helpful programs ever devised. At least as a young DA in eastern Alberta, I can say a lot of people had a lot of "fun" with this program! Initiated in the war years, it comprised four basic activities — Eastern and Western harvest excursions, farm immigrant programs, farm labor (Canada Manpower) and our district farm to farm program.

Each activity was significant both to the DA and to many farmers of that day. For example, an Easterner could buy a $10 ticket and tour the west and help with our harvest — a sort of revenue generating tour! We would order harvesters based on local requests. Sometimes after having received confirmation of 30 to 50 harvesters arriving by train, and with all arrangements made, we would find perhaps only 10 to 15 arrived. This after everything had been organized. The farmers were mad; the DA was mad and harvesters were tired and not very enamoured with their "tour" of the West. Resolving this type of problem took time as did healing the wounds it caused. But not to worry, for we would probably see them all back in a day or two for a reshuffle. Also, a rain or snow would bring many back into town — harvesting was "kaput" for that year. The Castor, Coronation and Consort areas were large users of labor under this program. I recall placing upwards of 250 workers each year in some 500 jobs during the harvesting season. So through it all, much harvesting was done, and Easterners played a significant role, but I'm afraid the only tour some of these fellows got was with a pitch fork in their hand!

- (cont'd) -

Farm Labor Programs In The 1950's (cont'd)

I also remember our immigrant program, and the problems created when 26 farm workers from four different European countries arrived at the same time – all wanted to meet their host farmers, but no one could communicate! A book could be written on this, but the script would vary, depending upon who did the writing! However, this program of the 1950's, with all its associated problems, paved the way for many new and good farm families to settle in Canada.

Where did the extension agent fit in? Probably in the same place as he does today – working with farm families and on all the related aspects. In retrospect, it was a rewarding and humorous time.

About The Author:

Mr. Jantzie served agriculture in the extension offices at Stettler, Coronation and Claresholm from 1952 - 1971. He spent the next nine years as head of the plant industry division's field crops branch and is now associate director of engineering and rural services.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

June 2, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOW PRESSURE CENTER PIVOT IRRIGATION

by Vincent Ellert, Irrigation Systems Technologist,
Alberta Agriculture

Rising energy costs and the realization that our energy resources are limited are prompting an increasing interest in the use of low pressure center pivot irrigation.

Many farmers use several times more energy to pump their irrigation water than they use for all the rest of their farming operations. A recent study, carried out by the National Research Council, shows that compared with dryland farmers, irrigation farmers on the Canadian Prairies use eight and a half times more energy per acre to grow two and a half times as much produce.

It is possible on some center pivots to reduce the operating pressure at the pivot point by as much as 50 per cent. The amount of money saved in pumping energy costs depends, of course, on the particular situation and on the cost per unit of energy. Unfortunately, low pressure center pivot irrigation is not feasible under all conditions.

There are a variety of types of low pressure sprinklers and spray heads that can be used on center pivots. Some take the form of modifications to common impact arm sprinklers. These operate at 60 to 80 per cent of normal pressure and are commonly referred to as moderate pressure sprinklers. Low and moderate pressure sprinklers should not be confused with low pressure spray nozzles.

The most common low pressure spray nozzle is an enlarged version of the flood-jet type which is often used on field weed sprayers. Another popular low pressure spray nozzle uses a swirl chamber to mix the water with air and produces larger droplets than the flood-jet nozzle. Most spray nozzles have no moving parts.

Because these nozzles break the water stream up into many fine particles that are easily moved by the wind, attention to drift is very important. Often the low pressure spray

- (cont'd) -

Low Pressure Center Pivot Irrigation (cont'd)

nozzles are mounted on drop tubes so that the water is discharged closer to the crop. Some of these tubes can be adjusted upwards to accommodate the growing crop. Many farmers who use drop tubes report less drift from the wind than is experienced with conventional high pressure sprinkler heads.

The basic advantage of low pressure center pivot irrigation is energy savings. The horsepower (kw) required for an irrigation pump is directly proportional to the pressure required and flow delivered. If the required pressure can be reduced, a corresponding reduction in power will result, and it stands to reason that the lower the power requirement, the lower the energy consumption.

The power of the pumping unit, the pressure rating of the pipeline and fittings and the size of the energy service can all be reduced by reducing the pressure requirement. This reduction can result in a substantial saving in capital expenditure, particularly with electric pumping units where the cost of the service is very much affected by the power rating.

The major disadvantage of low pressure center pivot irrigation is the extremely high application rate. The sprinklers on a conventional high pressure center pivot apply the water in a band that is from 90 to 120 feet wide near the end of the pivot and tapers down to about 70 feet near the pivot point. Spray nozzles on a low pressure center pivot apply the water in a band that is about 15 feet wide along the entire length of the machine. Some operators alternate the direction of each spray nozzle to double the width. However, because it is necessary for the same amount of water to be applied in either case, the application rate of the low pressure pivot is approximately four to six times that of a conventional pivot (up to 9 inches per hour).

If the water application rate exceeds the intake rate of the soil, surface ponding and runoff can occur. In addition to the obvious loss of irrigation water, this may cause the soil to erode and a portion of the crop could be lost. Some coarse soils have the ability to absorb

Low Pressure Center Pivot Irrigation (cont'd)

a large volume of water for a short period of time, and are, therefore, well suited to low pressure irrigation. Unsuitable conditions include heavy soils, steep slopes and a low percentage of crop cover. Since water application times are short (5 to 10 minutes), low pressure center pivots can be used on some medium textured soils on level land.

In an effort to decrease the application rate further, some spray nozzles are mounted on horizontal booms that extend five to 10 feet in alternating directions from the pivot lateral.

If you own a low pressure pivot, run the machine as slowly as possible without causing runoff. This will increase your water application efficiency. Also check your nozzles occasionally for wear. A worn nozzle will decrease the uniformity of the water application.

If you are considering trying low pressure irrigation, it is advisable to talk to people in your area who are already using it and are growing the same crops that you intend to grow.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the author at the Agriculture Center in Lethbridge (329-5153) or your nearest irrigation specialist's office.

- 30 -

June 2, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARMERS STILL HAVE PASTURE PROBLEMS

The recent rains over much of the province have not ended pasture problems, according to Myron Bjorge, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of forage crops.

Although the rains have been heavy enough to provide good forage growing conditions, depleted hay supplies and heavy stocking during the early spring have resulted in many pastures being very badly overgrazed. Mr. Bjorge says overgrazed pastures must be rested until the regrowth is six to eight inches high if they are to produce forage for the rest of the season. He suggests holding livestock in one pasture while the others are regrowing and providing the animals with supplemental feed in cases where the forage in the holding pasture is less than four inches high (about a third of a ton per acre). If the growth is less than four inches, daily consumption by the livestock will be only 10 to 20 pounds of dry matter per day. Cows on such a pasture will require 7 to 8 pounds of barley grain per day to prevent a drastic drop in milk production and conception rates during the breeding season. Hay or a combination of roughage and grain can be fed instead of the straight grain, but the cattle may eat less of this supplemental feed than they require because of its low palatability compared with fresh grass.

Mr. Bjorge points out that tame pasture will respond well to a fertilizer at this time, and that its use will increase regrowth and help to extend the grazing season later into the fall. He also advises farmers with livestock to carefully assess their pasture needs for the rest of the summer because they may still need emergency pasture in spite of the recent rains.

For those who will need emergency pasture, he recommends that they plant 2 to 2½ bushels of oats per acre, one to 1¼ bushels of fall rye per acre or a mixture of both any time between now and the end of June. Most oat varieties that are adapted to local conditions will produce good pasture and good regrowth as will most fall rye varieties. However, he suggests

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta Farmers Still Have Pasture Problems (cont'd)

Grizzly or Foothill Oats and Kodiak fall rye as a first choice.

Both the oats and the rye should be allowed to reach a height of eight to 10 inches before they are grazed. Mr. Bjorge says trampling losses can be kept to a minimum by turning enough stock into the pasture to graze it in a week to 10 days and then moving them on to another pasture.

Farmers who have been grazing livestock on hayland should remove their animals now because, with a normal amount of precipitation, they could still get a reasonable hay crop.

- 30 -

June 2, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUGGESTED BEEF COW MANAGEMENT FOR PASTURE AND HAY SHORTAGES

by R.D. Weisenburger
Head Animal Nutrition Section, Alberta Agriculture

In spite of the recent general rain, there are still areas of the province where the amount of precipitation that fell was not enough to improve pastures significantly before the start of the breeding season or to ensure enough feed for next winter.

A cow's requirement for feed between now and the end of the breeding period is higher than at any other time of the year. To get a high percentage of cows in calf, it may still be necessary in some areas to provide them with supplemental feed until the end of the breeding season. If you have any hay left over from last winter, and you are short of pasture, you might be wise to use it now. Other possibilities are to feed some grain or to feed range cubes, range pellets or dehy alfalfa. In most cases, I would suggest feeding cows on poor pasture 8 to 10 pounds of hay per day or 5 to 7 pounds of grain per animal per day.

Another option would be to use some of your hayland as pasture. Since hay crops are already short because of the limited rainfall we have received up to now, the best use of this land could be to pasture it for a month or two. If we get rain from now on, there should be enough regrowth to provide a responsible hay crop.

If your cows are not in good condition, you might try removing their calves for a 48-hour period a week to 10 days before the start of the breeding season. Some American research has shown the percentage of cows that breed successfully is higher after this treatment, and that the calves do not appear to affected by being without milk for two days. However, make sure that they have plenty of water during this period.

Since even with adequate rainfall from now on, this year's hay crop will be below

- (cont'd) -

Suggested Beef Cow Management For Pasture And Hay Shortages (cont'd)

normal, you should consider seeding oats or barley on some land that was intended for summer-fallowing. The oats and barley can be harvested as green feed or silage and used next winter. Straw could be used as a major part of next winter's rations.

Another management practice that you could use to reduce next winter's feeding requirements is to try to have your cows in very good condition when they go into that feeding period. Cows that are in very good condition can afford to lose some weight over the winter, which means that less feed or feed of a lower quality can be used. Weaning the calves early will help the cows to maintain good body condition, and providing the cows with supplemental feed this fall will help to reduce the amount of feed you will need next winter. An annual cereal crop planted in mid-summer can provide a good fall pasture.

The above are some general management techniques that can be used in those areas of the province that are still short of hay and pasture. While the methods used will reflect individual situations, the important thing is to make your plans and to put them into effect now.

- 30 -

June 2, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POISONOUS PLANTS STILL A THREAT

Alberta farmers could experience more livestock losses than usual this year from poisonous plants.

Bob Wroe, range management specialist with Alberta Agriculture, explains that early grazing, over grazing, dry conditions and lack of salt all create an environment where animals are more likely than usual to eat toxic quantities of poisonous plants. In spite of the recent rains, pastures will remain short for some time, and this will continue to encourage livestock to eat plants they would not eat under good pasture conditions. Also, animals that have established abnormal grazing habits because of the drought this spring may take some time to change these habits even if the pasture recovers quickly.

In addition to those livestock deaths that are regularly caused by tall larkspur in the foothills, arrow-grass in the prairie region and water hemlock in wet area like sloughs, Mr. Wroe expects problems this year from such secondary poisonous plants as narrow-leaved and two-groved milkvetch, early yellow locoweed, choke-cherries, lupine, greasewood, horsetail or scouring rush as well as from oat greenfeed, pig-weed and lambsquarters that contain nitrates.

What can a farmer do to safeguard his animals from poisonous plants? The first thing that Mr. Wroe suggests is to learn to recognize some of the secondary ones so that you know whether or not they are present in a particular pasture. The second thing he suggests is to provide animals on poor pasture with supplemental feed.

Anyone who comes across a sick animal in his pasture should contact his veterinarian immediately, and, when possible, remove the other livestock from the area where the problem was encountered.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 2, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES AFFECTED BY HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

In its first major revision in five years, Alberta's Highway Traffic Amendment Act 1979 (passed into law near the end of last year) contains a number of refinements which update vehicle equipment standards, including agricultural equipment standards, with the aim of reducing the risk of accidents on the province's roadways. The act sets forth legislation that updates both standards and equipment and contains other amendments to eliminate inconsistencies in traffic operations.

This latest series of amendments stems from studies begun four years ago by the Transportation Safety Branch when it became apparent that vehicle equipment sections of the act did not accurately reflect the requirements of the Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

The amendments affect four basic vehicle groups:

- Personal
- Commercial/Industrial
- Recreational/Modified
- Agricultural

The section dealing with agricultural equipment is split into two categories — self-propelled and towed vehicles.

Generally, it is required that self-propelled vehicles such as tractors, swathers and combines have adequate lighting including head lamps, clearance lamps, tail lamps, stop lamps and rear reflex reflectors for operation on public roads at night-time or during the day when visibility is limited to 150 metres or less. Self-propelled agricultural vehicles are also required to have a working service brake and a slow-moving vehicle triangle if their maximum service speed is less than 40 km/h.

Towed vehicles such as wagons, cultivators, tillers and disks are also required to have rear reflex reflectors, stop lamps and tail lamps. As well, a safety chain is required in

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Agricultural Vehicles Affected By Highway Traffic Amendment Act (cont'd)

addition to a regular hitch, as is a slow-moving vehicle triangle, and in some cases, mudflaps. In certain instances, a service brake is required on farm trailers if the service brake on the self-propelled unit is not capable of stopping both vehicles.

Highlights of all vehicle equipment requirements are listed in a series of four brochures, prepared as part of a public information program by Alberta Transportation. More than 200,000 of the brochures have been distributed.

They can be obtained from any motor vehicle licensing location or by writing to Alberta Transportation, Room 201, Transportation Building, 9630 - 106 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2E2.

- 30 -

June 2, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 FEEDERS' DAY AGENDA

A review of the University of Alberta's high profile Kinsella Ranch beef cattle breeding program will be one of the highlights of this year's Feeders' Day, scheduled to take place at the Brooks Recreation Centre, Brooks, on June 20.

The review will be given by Dr. Roy Berg of the university's Department of Animal Science who initiated the research at Kinsella in 1960 and who has been directing it ever since. More than 400 articles and a book have been published on the research that has been carried out at the ranch and in association with other projects.

Other topics on the agenda include the following:

"Water Versus Snow for Cattle" by Dr. B.A. Young, who will discuss whether beef cattle can obtain sufficient water from snow and whether extra feed is required to melt the snow and warm the water to the animal's body temperature.

"Effects of Winter Environment on Calves" by Dr. R.J. Christopherson, who will outline the extent to which genetic background, nutritional status, general health, winter acclimatization, housing and management practices influence the feed requirements of calves during the winter.

"Straw Rations for Wintering Beef Cows" by Dr. G.W. Mathison, who will talk about nutrient deficiencies, straw intake and the economics of a straw-based ration for beef cows.

"Forage Evaluation and Preservation" by Dr. L.P. Milligan, who will discuss the importance of the University of Alberta's new ruminant feed evaluation unit to livestock producers, and report on some encouraging results obtained from the use of sulpher dioxide to preserve grass and fababean silage.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

1980 Feeders' Day Agenda (cont'd)

"Raising Young Bulls for Beef" by Dr. M.A. Price, who will compare the growth rate and feed consumption of bulls, steers and implanted steers in feedlots and discuss the profitable marketing of bulls and the myths and facts about bull meat.

"The Utilization of Rapeseed Meal by Swine" by Dr. W.C. Sauer, who will outline the optimum level of rapeseed meal in pig rations, the cost of rations containing rapeseed meal and the factors that determine its nutritive value.

"Leg Weakness in Pigs" by T. Nakano, who will talk about abnormalities of swine joint cartilage and factors that may induce cartilage damage.

"The Magnitude of the PSE Problem in Pork Carcasses in Alberta" by Robert Westra, Alberta Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory, who will outline some of the factors that affect pork quality based on a survey he conducted as a research associate at the University of Alberta.

"Care and Management of Early Weaned Pigs" by R.O. Ball, swine specialist with Alberta Agriculture, who will outline some management tricks and techniques that can be used to wean 18 to 20 pigs/sow/year.

"The Nutritional Implications of Dietary Fiber for Swine" by J.J. Kennelly, who will discuss the influence of a higher level of diet fibre on animal performance and the extent to which swine can use high fibre feeds.

"Alternate Energy and Protein Sources for Swine" by Dr. W.C. Sauer, who will discuss the possible use of triticale, rye, hulless oats and barley, high lysine barley and unconventional protein sources like single cell protein and X-pro (protein concentrate from alfalfa) in pig rations of the future.

The registration fee (includes lunch) for Feeders' Day is $6 per person and is payable to the Eastern Irrigation Agricultural Society, c/o D.A. Office, Box 788, Brooks, TOJ OJO.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 FEEDERS' DAY AGENDA

A review of the University of Alberta's high profile Kinsella Ranch beef cattle breeding program will be one of the highlights of this year's Feeders' Day, scheduled to take place at the Brooks Recreation Centre, Brooks, on June 20.

The review will be given by Dr. Roy Berg of the university's Department of Animal Science who initiated the research at Kinsella in 1960 and who has been directing it ever since. More than 400 articles and a book have been published on the research that has been carried out at the ranch and in association with other projects.

Other topics on the agenda include the following:

"Water Versus Snow for Cattle" by Dr. B.A. Young, who will discuss whether beef cattle can obtain sufficient water from snow and whether extra feed is required to melt the snow and warm the water to the animal's body temperature.

"Effects of Winter Environment on Calves" by Dr. R.J. Christopherson, who will outline the extent to which genetic background, nutritional status, general health, winter acclimatization, housing and management practices influence the feed requirements of calves during the winter.

"Straw Rations for Wintering Beef Cows" by Dr. G.W. Mathison, who will talk about nutrient deficiencies, straw intake and the economics of a straw-based ration for beef cows.

"Forage Evaluation and Preservation" by Dr. L.P. Milligan, who will discuss the importance of the University of Alberta's new ruminant feed evaluation unit to livestock producers, and report on some encouraging results obtained from the use of sulpher dioxide to preserve grass and fababean silage.

- (cont'd) -

1980 Feeders' Day Agenda (cont'd)

"Raising Young Bulls for Beef" by Dr. M.A. Price, who will compare the growth rate and feed consumption of bulls, steers and implanted steers in feedlots and discuss the profitable marketing of bulls and the myths and facts about bull meat.

"The Utilization of Rapeseed Meal by Swine" by Dr. W.C. Sauer, who will outline the optimum level of rapeseed meal in pig rations, the cost of rations containing rapeseed meal and the factors that determine its nutritive value.

"Leg Weakness in Pigs" by T. Nakano, who will talk about abnormalities of swine joint cartilage and factors that may induce cartilage damage.

"The Magnitude of the PSE Problem in Pork Carcasses in Alberta" by Robert Westra, Alberta Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory, who will outline some of the factors that affect pork quality based on a survey he conducted as a research associate at the University of Alberta.

"Care and Management of Early Weaned Pigs" by R.O. Ball, swine specialist with Alberta Agriculture, who will outline some management tricks and techniques that can be used to wean 18 to 20 pigs/sow/year.

"The Nutritional Implications of Dietary Fiber for Swine" by J.J. Kennelly, who will discuss the influence of a higher level of diet fibre on animal performance and the extent to which swine can use high fibre feeds.

"Alternate Energy and Protein Sources for Swine" by Dr. W.C. Sauer, who will discuss the possible use of triticale, rye, hulless oats and barley, high lysine barley and unconventional protein sources like single cell protein and X-pro (protein concentrate from alfalfa) in pig rations of the future.

The registration fee (includes lunch) for Feeders' Day is $6 per person and is payable to the Eastern Irrigation Agricultural Society, c/o D.A. Office, Box 788, Brooks, TOJ OJO.

- 30 -

June 2, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA WOMEN'S WEEK ANNIVERSARY

An exciting and fun-filled program has been organized to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Alberta Women's Week at Olds College, which is scheduled for July 21 - 24.

Special guest speakers have been invited to add to the celebrations. They are Dr. Dale Berg of the University of Manitoba; Alene Moris of the Individual Development Center in Seattle, U.S.A., and Dr. Fred Bentley of the University of Alberta.

Daily "select-a-session" opportunities will be offered on such topics as fitness, communications, landscaping, interior design and food drying to mention only a few.

Alberta Women's Week is designed for women of all ages. It provides an ideal opportunity for renewing past acquaintances and for making new friends.

The registration fee is only $5, and room and board will be available at the college. A child care service has been organized for children of three to nine years of age, but preference will be given to those whose mothers are staying at the college residence.

The deadline for registration, which is limited, is June 23. No late registrations will be accepted.

Further information on the anniversary program and registration forms can be obtained from any district home economist.

- 30 -

June 2, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HELPING CHILDREN HELP THEMSELVES

What parent wouldn't like to have self-sufficient children? Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch has published an activity-oriented 120-page booklet, entitled "Helping Children Help Themselves" to help children to become more independent by acquiring daily living skills.

The publication addresses parents and group leaders but the activities are geared to children. Delightful drawings and illustrations are liberally scattered throughout the text. The reader is introduced to Cory Capable and Cathy Confident, the two young people who star in each of the five units.

The first unit, "Children in the Marketplace," teaches children the meaning of money and how to manage it. A child is destined to make purchases all his life, so the earlier he learns the basics of consumerism, the better off he will be.

In the unit on "Clothes for Kids," children are encouraged to select and care for their own wardrobes. The basics of taking pride in one's appearance are also given.

Another unit in the book deals with good communication. It is designed to teach children how to speak and listen so that they understand one another. Still another unit deals with safety in the home. It invites children to be on the outlook for things that are unsafe in their house. The final unit, "Kids in the Kitchen," offers several simple, well-illustrated recipes that children can make themselves.

A common feature in all five units is a listing of resource materials that group leaders and parents may find useful in dealing with children.

"Helping Children Help Themselves" is available from Alberta Agriculture's district extension offices or from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton,T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

June 2, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED FOR ST. PAUL

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Ellen Frombach to the position of district home economist at St. Paul.

Ms. Frombach will provide rural families in the St. Paul area with information on such topics as food and nutrition, home construction, interior design, clothing and textiles. She will also give consumer education courses, participate in 4-H societies and councils, etc. Her work requires good communication and responsiveness to the needs of the community.

Ms. Frombach was raised on a mixed farm 30 miles northeast of Regina, Saskatchewan. She obtained her degree in home economics from the University of Saskatchewan in 1979. During her last year at university, she worked on the Women's Recreation Board organizing and running sports events. Last summer she worked for the Communications Squadron of the Canadian Armed Forces in Regina.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

AGRI-NEWS

June 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Post-War Extension Activities In East-Central Alberta (Jubilee Series) 1

Six Alberta Firms Receive Assistance Under Nutritive Processing Agreement 5

ADC Lends Record Amount To Farmers 7

Soil Salinity And Crop Growth 8

Cow-Calf Leasing Arrangements 12

Solar Greenhouse Workshop 15

4-H Ain't All Cows 'N' Cookin' 16

Farmers' Market Calendar 18

1980 List Of Alberta Market Gardens 19

Head Of Livestock Inspection Section Appointed 20

ADC Staff Appointments And Transfers 21

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

Phone (403) 427-2127
Communications Division

June 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POST-WAR EXTENSION ACTIVITIES IN EAST-CENTRAL ALBERTA

by Larry Williams

My appointment as the DA for the Sedgewick office in June of 1948 was preceded by a very intensive two-minute interview in the hallway of an army hut classroom on the University of Alberta campus in Edmonton.

The interview included an introduction to Fred H. Newcombe, supervisor of DA's by Dr. R.D. Sinclair, dean of agriculture at the university. Mr. Newcombe's comment was "We would like you to come to work for us. Come and see me after your graduation. My office is in the Legislative Building." Needless to say I was flattered to think there were opportunities to work for pay. However, my ego was deflated some two months later when the same Mr. Newcombe told me I wouldn't be worth my salt the first year of employment but after that..... That comment was shared with many young potential DA's who were posted to my office for training in the years that followed.

My reception into the M.D. of Flagstaff was very sincere. I was received enthusiastically by many people, who referred to my predecessor, Herb Scott. He had been the DA in Sedgewick from 1920 until he was posted to Camrose in 1935. His work surely lived after him!

The municipal council, with C.P. Hayes (1) of Strome as reeve, volunteered to build office accommodation adjacent to the M.D. office located in Sedgewick. The offer was gratefully accepted as was the offer of some secretarial help and other amenities. It was the start of a very co-operative and fruitful association with a very progressive-thinking council. I felt that I was a very fortunate young man.

Until the office accommodation was built, I worked from my home where my rent-free office consisted of one room on the second floor. There was no furniture or other equip-

(1) C.P. Hayes was elected to the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1967.

- (cont'd) -

Post-War Extension Activities In East-Central Alberta (cont'd)

ment. Bulletins and other supplies were piled on the floor as they were received. It was a real event when a phone was installed. We now had a link with the outside world, and what a link!

Our activities included the ordering of and placing of harvest workers with farmers. Harvest help was secured from central Canada (Ontario and Quebec). The enthusiasm of the potential workers was usually greater than their knowledge of stooking or threshing or their ability to speak English. Trains arrived from the East at 5 a.m. daily and from Edmonton at 3 a.m. daily. The house phone started ringing soon after their departures. The DA's day started at that time. It was a real chore to get upwards of 100 harvesters located and to get the buzzing phone stopped. I certainly questioned the value of that service, but it did facilitate contact with rural families. Along with junior activities work, it gave the DA an opportunity to learn about his district and to meet many of the families. I sure felt I was earning my keep long before the first year was completed. Incidentally, the starting salary at that time was $2,400 per year with a $60 per year increment.

In the early post-war years, emphasis was placed on agricultural production. Vaccinate your heifers to protect them from Bang's disease; use better varieties of grain; plant trees to protect fields and buildings; use clean seed; use chemical weed sprays and use better bulls — these were all topics that were discussed both in and out of season.

The 4-H Program, successor to the Junior Activities Program, grew in popularity. This same 4-H Program was instrumental in my being transferred to the Camrose office in the fall of 1954. The Camrose DA office was located in the municipal office building. Once again I was fortunate to have the support and co-operation of the municipal council and staff.

The contrast in activites between the two districts was interesting. A wider variety of cereal and forage crops were grown in the Camrose area, and the livestock population was larger and production more intensive. The people were most co-operative and receptive to innovative ideas and programs. The first municipal seed cleaning plant in Alberta, and in Western

- (cont'd) -

Post-War Extension Activities In East Central Alberta (cont'd)

Canada for that matter, was built in 1948. There were four plants either operating or in the process of being built in Flagstaff when I moved to Camrose.

The Camrose artificial insemination unit (the first in Alberta) was organized in 1955. Initially, it contributed its share to improving the quality and productivity of dairy cattle, and later had the same effect on beef cattle in this part of the province. The purebred swine industry played an important part in the economy of the area. The transition from the Advanced Registry Program to the Record of Performance Program (ROP) aided the swine industry throughout the province. The establishment of the annual ROP swine sale in Camrose in 1957 (first and only one in Alberta) provided a source of top quality breeding stock for breeders from many scattered points.

The contribution that Herb Scott made to the beef cattle industry — he was a Shorthorn fancier — was evident in the Camrose area as well as in the Flagstaff district. The first grand champion carload of Shorthorn steers exhibited at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto in 1956 was raised by a Shorthorn breeder in the Camrose area who often referred to Herb Scott and his activities.

Almost coincidentally with my move to Camrose, the municipality became a county. Boundaries were adjusted according to a predetermined plan, and agricultural policies and programs were noticeably changed. Extension programs evolved from production-oriented programs. They included farm and home; farm accounting; farm business analysis; farm management, and, more recently, marketing. All these programs required more individual attention.

The demands and needs of the farming sector were recognized with the establishment of more offices and the expansion of the district home economist service. The policy of providing in-service training to new staff, both district home economists and DA's, was developed. This policy was followed by the regionaliziation of agricultural services. Under this program, initiated in the late 1960's, the regional officers were located to best serve the require-

- (cont'd) -

Post-War Extension Activities In East Central Alberta (cont'd)

ments of staff in district offices as well as agribusiness. The changes that have evolved in agriculture during the past three decades have been meaningful, and it has been a privilege and a pleasure to have worked with so many people who recognized the value of our most important natural resource — Agriculture!

About The Author:

Larry Williams served with the Calgary Tank Regiment from 1941 to 1946 and completed his degree in agriculture at the University of Alberta in 1948. He retired in July 1948 after 30 years as district agriculturist at Sedgewick and Camrose. He and his wife, Ester, nee Anderson, (first full time district home economist in Alberta) still live in Camrose. He was inducted into the Olds College Alumni Hall of Fame in 1978.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

June 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIX ALBERTA FIRMS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE UNDER NUTRITIVE PROCESSING AGREEMENT

The following six Alberta firms will receive assistance under the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance to expand, modernize or establish nutritive processing operations in rural Alberta.

Lacombe Fertilizer and Farm Supply Ltd. will receive $33,373 to expand its dry bulk fertilizer storage and blending capacity in Lacombe. The estimated capital cost of the project is $238,380. Three new jobs are expected to be created.

Tirol Dehydraters Ltd. of Tilley will receive $121,777 to build a new storage facility, which will enable it to substantially increase its sales of processed alfalfa. The estimated capital cost of the facility is $608,887.

Country House Meats Ltd. of Innisfail will receive $10,270 to modernize its meat processing plant in that town. The estimated capital cost is $51,350.

Garden City Fertilizer (Magrath) Ltd. will receive $18,172 to install a new fertilizer blending operation in Magrath. The estimated capital cost is $121,149. Five additional jobs are expected to be created.

Red Deer Co-op Ltd. will receive $24,776 to build a bakery and meat processing facility in its new shopping centre in Lacombe. The estimated capital cost of the two facilities is $165,175. Ten jobs are expected to be created.

Alberta Industrial Mustard Company Ltd. will receive $77,081 to build a plant for processing raw mustard seed into de-heated ground mustard at Warner. The estimated capital cost of this project is $385,405. The plant is expected to employ two to three people in its third year of operation.

- (cont'd) -

Six Alberta Firms Receive Assistance Under Nutritive Processing Agreement (cont'd)

Equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture, the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is designed to encourage the expansion, modernization and establishment of nutritive processing operations in rural areas of the province.

- 30 -

June 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC LENDS RECORD AMOUNT TO FARMERS

The Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) has provided 650 Alberta farmers with $61,300,000 in long-term direct loans during the past year. This is the highest level of lending by the corporation since it was established in 1972 and is more than twice last year's lending level. Most of the money was lent at ADC's preferred rate, which was 9 per cent throughout the last fiscal year.

The main portion of the total direct lending ($28,950,000) went to beginning farmers. Since this level of lending was three times that of last year, and since it assisted 277 individuals who would not otherwise have been able to start farming, ADC is clearly achieving its goal of maintaining viable family farms.

Major changes were announced to the corporation's philosophy and programs towards the end of March. Under these changes the maximum direct loan has been increased to $200,000 from $150,000; the direct loan interest rate has been increased to 12 per cent from 9 per cent; some direct loan borrowers are eligible for a 3 per cent interest reduction during the first five years of their loan; beginning farmers are eligible for a 6 per cent earned rebate during the first five years of their loans; ADC still maintains its position of being a lender of last resort, but no longer requires beginning farmers to approach their families or other lending institutions for assistance prior to approaching ADC and the maximum loan plus the asset limit of a beginning farmer is now $300,000 compared with $225,000.

With these revisions, it is anticipated that ADC's lending activity will surpass that of last year by a substantial amount. The corporation's funding is now being obtained through the sale of debentures to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

- 30 -

June 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOIL SALINITY AND CROP GROWTH

by Colin McKenzie
Alberta Agriculture's Irrigation Division, Brooks

Soil salinity is often a severe problem in irrigation areas because irrigation water adds salt to the soil and losses from the distribution system or excessive irrigation may aggravate or create a high water table salinity problem. It may also occur in areas of low rainfall and in areas where the soils are formed from saline parent materials.

When excessive salts are present in the soil they limit the ability of the crop to absorb water. Although saline salts are found in wet areas, the plants growing in these areas may suffer drought because of their limited ability to absorb water if the moisture level of the soil drops even slightly. Alfalfa, for example, will wilt on one particular loam soil when it has a moisture content of 6 per cent, and if only 0.2 per cent of salts is added, the alfalfa will wilt when the soil moisture content is 13 per cent.

An excess of some salts may be toxic to some plants. The salt that is most frequently toxic in a saline soil is sodium although boron, chlorine and sulfate can be present at toxic levels. If the level of any of these salts is too high, they can reduce crop growth. Carbonate and bicarbonate may be present in toxic amounts in some high pH soils. The concentration of acidity or base in the soil is referred to as its pH. Plant growth is restricted on soils with a high pH (9 – 11) and they may contain a toxic amount of sodium, carbonate or bicarbonate. Growth of some crops may be reduced at a pH of 8.7 – 9. Saline soils are often deficient in iron, zinc or phosphorus.

Soluble salts like sodium will cause a soil to form a hard crust when it is dry and to become very sticky when it is wet. An excess of sodium also causes a soil to have very poor drainage.

- (cont'd) -

Soil Salinity and Crop Growth (cont'd)

Types of Problem Soils

Saline Soils - These soils contain sufficent soluble salts to interfere with the growth of crops and their uptake of water. The salts include sodium, calcium, potassium, magnesium, chloride, sulfate and sometimes boron.

Alkali Soils - These soils have a sufficent amount of sodium to interfere with plant growth. They have a high pH (often 9 – 11) and are often black in colour.

Saline Alkali Soils - These soils have a high salt content and a large amount of soluble sodium.

Symptoms of Salinity Damage to Plants

The first and most common symptom is reduced growth. A plant growing on saline soil is smaller than normal, may have darker leaves than normal and may wilt from drought sooner than it would on a non-saline soil. Plants growing on soil that has a high level of salinity may have greatly reduced growth and a burn on their leaf tips. Such a soil may crust and become very hard, and white patches of salt may appear on the soil surface when it is dry.

How Salinity is Measured

The standard measurement of soil salinity is its ability when mixed with water to conduct electricity. When only a little salt is present, a soil and water mixture is a poor conductor of an electrical current. However, as the amount of salt increases, the ability of the mixture to conduct electricity improves. The measure of the soil's ability to conduct electricity is refered to as its electrical conductivity (EC). The EC is measured in millimhos/centimetre or in millisiemens/centimetre. A non-saline soil will have an EC of 0.5 – 1. The yield of crops like strawberries or corn which are sensitive to salinity will be reduced when the EC is 2 or higher. Only the most tolerant crops like barley or tall wheatgrass will do well when the EC is 8 – 10 or higher.

- (cont'd) -

Soil Salinity and Crop Growth (cont'd)

How Soils Become Saline

Salts may be added to the soil by irrigation water. Good quality irrigation water like that from the Bow River contains about 300 parts per million (ppm) of salts, and one foot of this water would add about 800 pounds of salt to an acre of land. A vigorously growing crop in a greenhouse might use a foot of water every six to 10 weeks during the main growing season. Hence, in one year enough salts could be added to the soil to cause problems in sensitive crops if the soil does not have any drainage to remove the salts. When irrigation water comes from a dugout, well or small lake its salt content could be much higher than 300 ppm and the soil could quickly become saline.

Some drainage occurs in normal soils that allow the salts to move downward. However, if the amount of water added is not sufficient to allow for drainage or it there is a hard layer that prevents the water from moving downward, salts will accumulate near the surface and reduce crop growth. Problems will occur if a water table develops three feet or less below the soil surface. In such cases, the water may rise from the water table and evaporate from the soil surface leaving a salt deposit on or near it.

What Can Be Done if a Salinity Problem Develops

. Use good quality irrigation water.

. Provide for drainage by mixing the soil with sand or a large quantity of organic matter such as straw.

. Control the irrigation so ample but not excess water is applied. This will move the salts down but prevent the build up of a water table

. Use trickle irrigation with emitters located near the plants. The water moving out from the emitters will reduce the salinity near the emitters.

. Use subsurface drainage with porous plastic pipe.

. Add gypsum or sulphur and water for alkali and high pH problems and provide drainage. This will only help when drainage is present.

- (cont'd) -

Soil Salinity and Crop Growth (cont'd)

. Grow a salt tolerant crop.

. Check to make sure that soil fertility problems do not develop. Salinity decreases the availability of some elements, but an excess of fertilizer increases the amount of soluble salts, which adds to the salinity problem.

Sources of Information

Most soil testing laboratories will do a salinity analysis on soil samples. Testing the suitability of water for irrigation is done by Alberta Environment's soils and water quality laboratory in Lethbridge. Salinity and drainage information can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's irrigation specialists.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COW–CALF LEASING ARRANGEMENTS

Responsibility, contributions and sharing in cow-calf leasing arrangements can vary from one situation to another, but, in most cases, the owner supplies the cows and bulls and the tenant provides the feed, labor and management. The tenant usually provides the buildings and equipment as well.

A fair rent is one that allows the owner and the tenant to share the gross income in the same proportion as their contributions. A 50 - 50 split does not necessarily constitute a fair rent because, in certain cases, the contributions may be on a 20 -80 per cent basis. The ratio of sharing should always be adjustable to allow for changing circumstances, and the lease should be long enough to allow for the recouping of any short-term losses.

A cattle owner can stand short-term minimal earnings and/or losses in anticipation of a higher income in the future, but a tenant depends heavily on short-term returns because he contributes a large proportion of the cash costs. Hence, low calf prices tend to affect the tenant's net cash income more than those of the cattle owner who has few cash costs.

Since a tenant's cash costs may exceed his returns during periods of low cattle prices, provision should be made in the lease for the sharing of cash costs in periods of low cattle prices whenever this is possible. While a tenant is normally not able to withstand short-term losses, the owner usually views his investment in cattle as a long-term one and may be willing to endure short-term losses in anticipation of future gains.

The market value of resources contributed by each party may not be the actual cost when such resources have no use other than through a lease. Also, a large scale operation tends to reduce average costs per cow.

-(cont'd)-

Cow-Calf Leasing Arrangements (cont'd)

Losses brought on by animal deaths and culling are two important areas that should be thoroughly considered when determining a fair cow-calf lease. If the owner is responsible for death losses in the cow herd, this fact should be reflected in the value of his contribution. An average expected death rate of 1.5 or 2 per cent of the value of the cows could be used to calculate it.

In a situation where losses are replaced by a natural increase under the tenant's care, the two parties should agree on how the costs of raising replacements are to be shared. It should be noted that raising replacements delays the start of production compared with purchasing bred cows.

If cattle are insured, the insurance premium is listed as a contribution from the party who pays for it (usually the owner). The insurance proceeds are then used to purchase replacements. When this procedure is followed, there should be no allowance made for death losses as outlined above.

In the case of culling, the cattle owner and the tenant should share the income from culled cows when the latter raises the replacement stock. If, on the other hand, the cattle owner undertakes to purchase the replacements, he should receive all the proceeds from the culled animals.

A publication entitled "Cow-Calf Leasing Arrangements" contains information on the main types of cattle leasing arrangements,. the advantages and disadvantages of leasing and a blank worksheet to help you calculate the contributions being made by each party. If you do not have a breakdown of your costs, you may wish to use up-dated consensus research data on the cow calf-operations in your area, which is available from your district extension office and the Production Economics Branch,

-(cont'd)-

Cow-Calf Leasing Arrangements (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton T5K 2C8

Copies of "Cow-Calf Leasing Arrangements (agdex 812-3) can be obtained from your district agriculturist or from the Print Media Branch of Alberta Agriculture at the same address as given above.

-30-

June 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOLAR GREENHOUSE WORKSHOP

A workshop on solar greenhouse construction and use is scheduled to take place at the Fairview College Campus in the Peace River region from June 22 - 27. It is being sponsored by the college and Peace Works, a non-profit organization

Leslie Davis, one of the main contributors to the very successful 1979 conference on energy and housing will be instructing at the workshop. He is a founding member of New Mexico's Solar Sustenance Team, which is made up of a group of professionals who have designed and constructed solar greenhouses across the United States. Bill Lazar, another member of the Solar Sustenance Team, will solicit input from Alberta consultants on the best possible design for greenhouses in northern climates. Linda Gilkenson, a horticulturist and solar greenhouse specialist who has worked on the Ark Project (a well-known energy efficiency living experiment) in Prince Edward Island for four years, will discuss various aspects of solar greenhouse management. She has managed two solar greenhouses at the Ark and one of her special interests is the biological control of insects.

Anyone interested in attending this five-day workshop is asked to contact the Continuing Education Department at Fairview College as soon as possible because space is limited. More information on the workshop can also be obtained from this department. The registration fee is only $50, and a limited amount of accommodation is available on the college campus at a cost of $5 per person per night (double occupancy). Meals will be available from the cafetaria and will cost $5 to $8 per day.

The address is Continuing Education Department, Fairview College, Box 3000, Fairview (Telephone: 835 - 2213).

- 30 -

June 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H AIN'T ALL COWS 'N' COOKIN'

Stan Schellenberger, M.P. (left) and Ed Ness, Alberta Wheat Pool (right) sent six Alberta 4-H'ers on their way to the National Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa.

Almost 60 4-H'ers from across Canada are now settling back to their home routines after a hectic five days at the National Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa.

The theme of the seminar, "Our Right to Political Power" was in evidence as the 4-H'ers visited the Canadian Citizenship Court where they were presented with their Certificates of Citizenship; Parliament Hill; the House of Commons and Government House. This theme remained prominent in their minds while they attended lectures and discussions on such issues as the Mechanics and Implementation of Political Power, the Rights and Use of Political Power, the Administration of Political Power and Political Power in Other Countries.

The Alberta Wheat Pool, which sponsored an annual send-off banquet in Edmonton for the delegates, was represented this year by Ed Ness, supervisor of field service for the Alberta Wheat Pool. Guest speaker at the banquet, Stan Schellenberger, M.P. for the Wetaskiwin

- (cont'd)

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

4-H Ain't All Cows 'N' Cookin' (cont'd)

constituency, also took an active part in the seminar in Ottawa. The other participants from Alberta were Carmen Brown of Galahad; Paula Holowath of Rumsey; Lorri Holthe of Turin; Marie Kemp of Millet; Julie Moltzhan of Bashaw; Patty Shandro of Willingdon; and their escort, Doug Bienert, supervisor field services, Alberta 4-H, Edmonton.

The National Citizenship Seminar serves the purpose of increasing awareness and understanding of the structures and functions of the Canadian governmental system and the personal involvement in this system. By travelling to another part of the country and meeting new people, a 4-H'er gets the opportunity to exchange ideas with others and to develop a better awareness of 4-H in Canada.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMERS' MARKET CALENDAR

If you are an Alberta farmers' market fan or plan to visit one of these markets for the first time be sure to ask at the market for the 1980-81 Farmers' Market Calendar.

You will be fascinated by the wide range of useful tips and the unusual recipes contained in this attractively illustrated calendar. Following are some examples of the type of information you can expect — feel the silk end of a corn cob to tell if the corn is ready to eat. On a mature cob, the tip is full and blunt; not pointed — cucumbers will keep longer in the refrigerator if they are first wrapped in plastic — add icing sugar instead of granulated sugar to prevent whipped cream from going watery — the stalks and leaves of herbs like parsley, basil and chervil can be washed, dried and quick-frozen. Dill, chives and tarragon should be blanched in boiling water for 50 seconds before they are frozen — use masking tape when making a quilt to mark straight stitching lines — violins that are handmade from Alberta wood are sold at the Breton farmers' market — etc. etc.

The calendar also gives the opening and closing dates of those markets that are only open during the summer and lists those that have special events like free flowers for children and children's flower contests and special Christmas markets. It also outlines the produce, crafts, etc. that certain specific markets are noted for.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Phone (403) 427-2127
Communications Division

June 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 LIST OF ALBERTA MARKET GARDENS

The 1980 edition of "Alberta Market Gardeners", which contains the names of 114 of the main market gardens in the province, is now available to anyone who would like it.

In addition to listing the names of the market gardens, their owners and their telephone numbers, the publication contains directions on how to get to each garden, the months and the number of days in the week it is open, the method of sale (pick-your-own, farm gate, farmers' market) and the main crops.

To make it easier for people to find Alberta's market gardens they are listed under one of 10 sections, according to their location. These sections are: Peace River, Bonnyville, Edmonton, Red Deer, Drumheller, Calgary, Lethbridge, Taber, Brooks and Medicine Hat.

Copies of "Alberta Market Gardners" can be obtained from travel centres, informational outlets, L. Hausher, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks and the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

June 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF LIVESTOCK INSPECTION SECTION APPOINTED

Dr. Terry Church, head of Alberta Agriculture's preventive medicine branch, has announced the appointment of Dr. Ralph Shute to the position of head of the livestock section.

In this position, Dr. Shute will be responsible for preventing the spread of livestock diseases through livestock markets and in community pastures. He will also supervise the Livestock Medicines Regulations and act as a liaison between government departments and the livestock industry in Alberta.

Dr. Shute has lived and practised veterinary medicine at Leduc since he graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1964. In 1971, he earned a Diploma in Veterinary Pathology from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. He has performed health inspections in four different auction markets and meat inspection duties since 1974 and has been involved with the Swine Herd Health Program.

Dr. Shute is a member of five professional associations and serves on the board of directors of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. He has served on various committees and is presently on the council of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. While in practice, his special interest was preventive medicine, particularly in relation to dairy herd health.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC STAFF APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Lorne Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporaton, has announced the following staff appointments and transfers.

Larry Bilben has been selected for the position of assistant regional manager, south central region and will be moving to Airdrie in early June. He joined the corporation in 1975 after having spent several years as a business administration instructor at Vermilion College and is presently a loans officer in the Camrose district office.

Trevor Davies has been selected for the position of assistant regional manager, north central region, and will be moving to Red Deer in June. He joined the corporation in 1977 and held several positions at the head office in Camrose before taking the position of loans officer in Lacombe last November. Prior to joining the corporation, he spent four years working for a major finance company.

Harry Sugimoto has been selected for the position of loan review officer at the head office in Camrose. He joined the corporation in September 1979 after having spent several years in the private sector with major chartered banks. He is presently a loans officer in the Peace River district office.

Andrew Drohomirecki has been selected for the position of loans officer in Drumheller. He joined the corporation in February of last year and was loans officer in the Peace River district office prior to his present transfer.

Dan Hart will be joining the Edmonton district office as a loans officer in early June. He joined the corporation in 1973 and has spent the last five years as a loans officer in Stettler.

Sandra High will shortly be transferring to Westlock as a loans officer. She joined the corporation in February of this year and received her training at the Edmonton district office.

- (cont'd) -

ADC Staff Appointments And Transfers (cont'd)

Wayne Lohr will shortly be moving to Stettler as a loans officer. He joined the corporation in September 1979 and is presently a loans officer at Barrhead.

Bob Spiller will join the Camrose district office as a loans officer on July 1. He joined the corporation in January 1979 and is presently a loans officer at Two Hills.

Bill Achtymichuk became a loans officer at Athabasca in May. He joined the corporation in February of this year and received his training at the Camrose district office.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

June 16, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

The Way It Was (Jubilee Series) 1

Metric Conversion Of Farm Machinery 4

Cattle Cars May Make A Comeback 6

Grain Handling And Transportation 8

Controlling The Water Level In Beaver Ponds 10

Hokkaido Dairy Exchange Official Visits Alberta 13

1980 Breton Plots Field Day 15

District Home Economist-In-Training Appointments 16

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

June 16, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE WAY IT WAS

by A.W. Lampitt

In the spring of 1942 I was sent as district agriculturist to Bentley, which had formerly been served from Red Deer. J.E. Birdsall, DA at Red Deer, spent a day taking me around my territory, after which I was on my own.

I soon found my way around the district, which extended west to the Rocky Mountains. It had few good roads, but many good farmers. Since it was basically a livestock area, specializing in hogs, I spent some of my time assisting the livestock farmers. It was partly in the grey wooded soil zone which meant there was also work to be done in that regard.

This was the time when warble fly control and Bangs disease control were getting started, and I spent much of my time at meetings discussing both topics. I remember at the warble fly meetings, I usually took a farmer along whom I had previously convinced to try warble fly control. This, I felt, would give credence to what I was saying. Actually, it was fairly easy to make this a successful venture.

Bangs control was a little more difficult because a veterinarian was required to inoculate and tag the animals. I remember asking a group of farmers to get their animals ready so that I could bring the veterinarian from Lacombe to inoculate them. I took Dr. W.G. Black to the first farm, and the farmer put the first animal into his homemade chute, which was made of one-inch lumber. When the heifer felt the squeeze, she took off with the end of the chute clamped on to her neck. I told the farmer we would have to rope his heifers.

Since I was the only one of the three of us who could throw a rope, I found myself in the middle of the corral roping cattle for vaccination and wondering what Deputy Minister of Agriculture, O.S. Longman, would think if he saw one of his boys playing cowboy — no Indians!

- (cont'd) -

The Way It Was (cont'd)

Dr. Black, as a passenger in my car, got to open all the gates, and, after receiving several punctures and scratches on his hands, said, "Art if I ever get rich you'll know it." I asked "How?" He said "I'm going to buy every farmer a decent gate."

I did a considerable amount of work with fertilizers on the grey wooded soils, and I well remember a field along the Bentley-to-Sylvan Lake highway. It was seeded to alfalfa and not producing much, so I arranged with the farmer to put some fertilizer plots in his fields. I had a three-foot machine for putting on the fertilizer, so I "wrote" his initials in letters 50 yards high on a hillside overlooking the highway. More people asked about those letters than ever asked about anything else I did.

I used to do more work than I should have done in trying to cure sick animals. I remember a farmer showing me his pigs with huge cracks in their backs. We treated them by putting oil on these areas, and I told him to keep them away from mud and to give them some shade from the sun. About two weeks later I saw him in town and asked him how his pigs were doing. "Oh," he said, "my pigs are fine. I still don't know what was wrong with them." (The urge to kill!!)

I also remember having to make a trip west of Leedale one spring day. I started at 4 a.m. when the ground was frozen, but I had to walk the last four miles. By the time I got back to my car it was afternoon and nice and warm and muddy, and it took me all afternoon to get the few miles back to Leedale. In the process, I had jacked up the back of the car, removed the back wheels and dug the mud out of the fenders so that the wheels could turn. I stayed in the store at Leedale until 2 a.m. waiting for the ground to freeze hard enough for me to get back to the highway and back to Bentley — a 24-hour day!

Probably one of the most rewarding things I did was to start a young farmers' organization in the Bentley area. We met monthly, decided on a topic for the next meeting, gave

- (cont'd) -

The Way It Was (cont'd)

out pamphlets on the subject and appointed someone to lead the discussion. I remember one farmer saying "I have had a booklet on feedlot finishing for years, but I have never read it till now. If I had, I would be much better off because my losses would have been fewer." This project was doing exactly what I wanted – bridging the gap between the researcher and the producer.

I think I had four or five 4-H clubs in my area, and I enjoyed working with them. A number of purebred stock breeders were used as a source of good breeding stock and also for information for our 4-H members.

I made many friends while at Bentley and still go back to visit them. If you want a scenic drive go from Ponoka to Rimbey and down to Bentley and Sylvan Lake and see the beautiful Blindman Valley.

About The Author:

Mr. Lampitt took up farming at Tofield in 1945. From 1953 to 1958 he was principal of the Satinwood School, south of Clive. He than subsequently served as assistant principal of the Salisbury School, (Sherwood Park) until he retired in 1976. He is currently secretary of the Edmonton Co-op Board.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

June 16, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRIC CONVERSION OF FARM MACHINERY

What will be the effect of metric conversion on farm machinery?

Farmers will find little difference in metric equipment compared with imperial-sized equipment. In fact, many farmers already own metric cars or metric machines that were produced in metric countries. Any changes that do occur due to metric conversion will affect the hardware (nuts, bolts, etc.) and the tools used with this hardware.

The form of metric conversion that applies predominantly to the farm machinery industry is termed "soft conversion". This means that imperial measurements are converted to the equivalent in metric units. The metric products that result from soft conversion will be basically unchanged from their imperial forerunners, and, in most cases, metric machinery parts will be interchangeable with imperial-sized parts.

For example, a part, such as a disc blade, made from metric components will have inside and outside dimensions which are the same size in the metric model as in the imperial one. Only the units used to describe the size will be different. After conversion, there will be a greatly reduced variety of disc blade thicknesses, and, hence fewer repair parts to deal with.

Hydraulic fittings and hoses, 3-point hitches and PTO shaft sizes will not change. Metric hitch points will be interchangeable with imperial ones. The sizes of fuel tanks, grain bins and seed boxes will not change, but they will be filled with material that are measured in metric units like the litre and the cubic metre. Dual dimensions (stated in imperial units as well as metric units) will be maintained for some time on decals, operator manuals and product literature.

Since provincial legislation outlined in the Farm Implement Act states that: "Every sale agreement of a new farm implement shall be deemed to contain a warranty that a sufficient supply of repair parts for the implement will be made available by the vendor for a period of

- (cont'd) -

Metric Conversion Of Farm Machinery (cont'd)

10 years from the date of the agreement", repair parts will be available for preconversion machinery after conversion has taken place. However, as some imperial-sized materials become difficult to obtain, different manufacturing practices may be required to provide repair parts that are interchangeable with the original ones.

Seed drills and their attachments will be marked in both metric and imperial measures. Sprayers will be treated in a similar manner. Information and conversion charts will be available to assist farmers during the conversion period of chemical products because current equipment will be in service for many years.

Metric conversion activities for the farm machinery industry in Canada are being co-ordinated with those taking place in the United States. From the point of view of manufacturing, the industry in Canada will be working predominantly in metric by late 1982.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE CARS MAY MAKE A COMEBACK

"A carload" may once again become a common term in the lingo of cattlemen, according to Dr. Frank Baker, extension veterinarian with Alberta Agriculture.

He reports that a recent study carried out by Texas A & M researchers on shipping cattle by rail versus by truck shows that rail transportation is four times as energy efficient as truck transportation. Hence, high operating costs and rising fuel prices may reduce the availability of trucking services and make rail transporation an attractive alternative.

Rail transportation in the past was hampered by costly and inconvenient stops to let the cattle out for feed and water. To overcome this problem, the Texas researchers installed hay bunks and water tanks in cattle cars. Television cameras installed in the cars showed that the cattle ate, drank, rested and travelled as comfortably by rail as by truck.

"According to the research data," says Dr. Baker, "the cattle appear to have behaved normally — eating freely and drinking several times a day. However, their behaviour was modified by such things as train speed, track conditions, load density and pretransit handling. Animals, for example, that had travelled 11 hours by truck to the railway station laid down in the cattle car within 48 hours, while those that had travelled only a short distance by truck laid down within 18 to 29 hours. On a rough track, it was found that the animals preferred to stand, and that they made fewer trips to the water tank.

The research data also show that cattle that had been shipped by rail ate as soon as they arrived at their destination, while those that had been shipped by truck did not eat normally for several days. However, in spite of this, in 48 hours there was no significant difference in weight gain between cattle shipped by the two methods. Shrinkage in the cattle shipped by rail was 6 to 7 per cent compared with 10 per cent for those shipped by truck.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Cattle Cars May Make A Comeback (cont'd)

The Texas researchers believe that the installation in cattle cars of bunk feeders for grain and pellets as well as for hay, would in addition to making the job of feeding the cattle during transit easier, make it possible to feed a specially formulated preconditioning diet.

A more detailed description of the Texas research is contained in the February 4, 1980 issue of the American magazine "Feedstuffs".

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 16, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION

Canada must move now to improve its grain handling and transportation system if it is to maintain and expand its share of the growing world market.

This is the view expressed in a report entitled "A Discussion Paper On Current Issues In Grain Handling And Transportation", prepared by Alberta Economic Development and Alberta Agriculture. It states that problems in the grain handling and transportation system are rapidly approaching crisis proportions, and that last year's lost grain sales were estimated at $600 million compared with the previous year's estimate of between $450 and $500 million. A recent report by the Canada-Japan Trade Council warns that unless Canada's grain handling and transportation problems are tackled rapidly and forcefully, there will be little hope of a turn-around in grain exports to Japan. In the meantime, while the Canadian Wheat Board had to turn down sales contracts and defer delivery on others, more than 35 per cent of the 1978-79 grain crop remained on farms, and this situation is likely to get worse.

Some of the main problems facing Canada's grain handling and transportation system are: both railways are predicting a serious shortage of locomotives in the near future; ship demurrage costs exceeded $20 million last year; lost and deferred sales have led to low quotas and severely depressed off-board domestic feed grain prices and the congested system has severely restricted the ability of grain producers to make more productive use of their land and equipment.

In addition to providing a comprehensive historical background on Canada's grain handling and transportation system, the report discusses the Statutory Grain Rate issue and points out other factors which are contributing to the present problems. While it identifies and discusses alternative components of a solution to the problems, and suggests a series of parameters that can be used, it does not present a specific solution or specific solutions. "A solution,"

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Grain Handling And Transportation (cont'd)

the report says, "must be the culmination of discussions involving all affected parties."

Free copies of "A Discussion Paper On Current Issues In Grain Handling and Transportation" can be obtained from district agriculturists, regional agricultural offices and the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

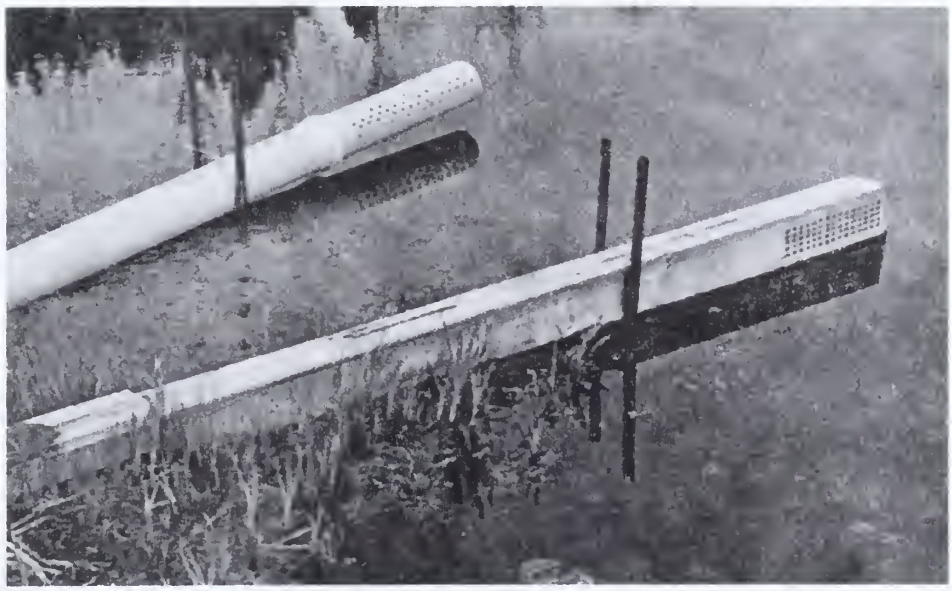
- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTROLLING THE WATER LEVEL IN BEAVER PONDS



Double perforated culverts "fanned" to prevent blocking by beaver.

If you are having flooding problems because of a beaver pond on your property, the fish and wildlife division urges you to consider installing a perforated pipe rather than attempting to eliminate the pond.

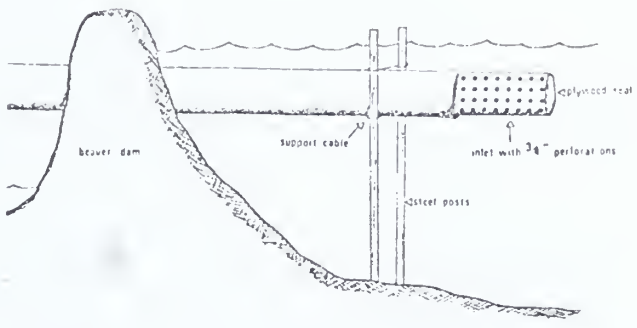
Here is how John Gunson of the division's problem wildlife management section suggests you do it. First buy a standard 20-foot length of plastic (PVC) pipe that has a diameter of six or eight inches and a flared end. Then cut five feet of pipe off another piece of pipe and perforate the short piece with three-quarter-inch diameter holes. If the pipe is six-inches in diameter Mr. Gunson suggests making at least 200 holes. If it has an eight-inch diameter, you will need about 300 holes. Drive the perforated piece of pipe into the flared end of the main pipe and block the perforated end with a treated half-inch plywood plug. This can be held in place with two screws.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Controlling The Water Level In Beaver Ponds (cont'd)

Now drive two metal posts into the bottom of the pond about 12 feet from the dam and attach a piece of heavy galvanized wire to them to support the perforated pipe. It should have a slight downward slope into the beaver pond so that the inlet will remain submerged as the water level drops.



Then cut a trench across the top of the dam to the desired level, and place the pipe in it with the outlet protruding a few feet beyond the dam. The perforated end of the pipe should extend to the deepest part of the pond to discourage the beavers from trying to block the perforations. It may be helpful in a shallow pond to dig or blast a hole in the bottom of the pond below the inlet. If your pipe is not long enough to reach the deepest part of the pond, you can add more sections.

If a large volume of water is flowing into the beaver pond, it may be necessary to use more than one pipe. If they are to be run through the same trench in the beaver dam, the perforated ends should be fanned out to make it more difficult for the beavers to plug them up.

The above method of dealing with flooding problems caused by beavers is contained in a bulletin entitled "Controlling Water Levels in Beaver Ponds". Published by the fish and wild life division, it also contains instructions on preventing beavers from blocking road culverts and on using a floating electric fence to prevent them from repairing a broken dam.

Copies of "Controlling Water Levels in Beaver Ponds" can be obtained from district fish and wildlife offices and municipal and county offices.

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 16, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE CATEGORIES OF CULTIVATORS TESTED BY PAMI

If you are in the market for a new cultivator, you will be interested to know that the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) has released reports on 12 cultivators they have tested.

The cultivators they tested in the light duty field cultivator category were the John Deere Series 1000, White 485, Hesston 2210 and Case 1236W. The performance of these cultivators, which are suitable only for light tillage operations such as those required for seedbed preparation, herbicide incorporation and secondary summerfallow operations, was greatly improved when mounted finishing harrows were used in conjunction with them.

The cultivators tested in the intermediate category were the Bourgault Vibra-Master VM 24-28 and the International 645 Vibra Chisel. These cultivators are capable of such tillage operations as seedbed preparation, herbicide incorporation, heavy secondary summerfallow operations and light primary summerfallow operations. They are not recommended for heavy primary summerfallow operations. As was the case with the light duty field cultivators, the performance of the intermediate cultivators was improved when they were used in conjunction with mounted finishing harrows.

The heavy duty cultivators tested were the Co-op Implement 204, Lely S-8-6, Leon CP77-334, Friggstad C5-43, Massey-Ferguson 128 and Melroe 505. They were found to be suitable for heavy and medium primary tillage.

The complete reports, which contain information on penetration, ridging, trash burial, plugging, weed kill and power requirements, can be obtained in Alberta from the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, c/o LCC Campus, Lethbridge, T1K 1L6.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 16, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOKKAIDO DAIRY EXCHANGE OFFICIAL VISITS ALBERTA

Noburo Tamura is being welcomed by Majorie Atkins, president of the Alberta Host Family Association, while Dr. Yasu Hiratsuka, liaison officer with the Alberta-Hokkaido Dairy Exchange Program looks on.

Noburo Tamura, general secretary of the Hokkaido-Alberta Dairy Science and Technique Exchange Association, led the seventh group of farm exchangees to come to Alberta from Japan. They were met at the airport by both Japanese and Alberta exchangees, host families and officials of the exchange program.

In addition to attending the week-long orientation sessions, which were held at Olds College, Mr. Tamura visited host farmers and their Hokkaido exchangees and Alberta exchangees who have been to Hokkaido. He also visited the University of Alberta where there are two student exchangees and an exchange professor, and he called on the minister of agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, whose department is responsible for the program.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Hokkaido Dairy Exchange Official Visits Alberta (cont'd)

Since the program was started in 1974, sixty-four farm exchangees have come to Alberta from Hokkaido and 15 Albertans have gone to Hokkaido. There have also been six professors and two students who have come to Alberta from Hokkaido but, to date, Alberta has not been able to reciprocate in these categories.

- 30 -

June 16, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 BRETON PLOTS FIELD DAY

The annual Breton Plots Field Day will be held on July 11.

This year's program will emphasize phosphorous, potassium and sulphur in terms of their role in plant nutrition, as sources of fertilizer and methods of application. These topics will be discussed by Doug Penny, Alberta Agriculture, and Drs. M. Nyborg and J. Robertson, Department of Soil Science, University of Alberta.

Dr. W. McGill, chairman of the Department of Soil Science at the University of Alberta, will discuss additions and revisions to the long-term plots planned for the coming year.

The Breton Plots are the site of long-term research on the management of gray wooded soils and are located one mile east and one mile south of Breton.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 16, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST-IN-TRAINING APPOINTMENTS

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the following district home economist-in-training appointments and their training locations.

Bernadine Kramer will take her training at High Prairie. She grew up on a grain farm in the Fairview area and spent four years in 4-H. She graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (home economics), having majored in clothing and textiles. As a member of the Home Economic Club executive in her fourth year at university, she did public relations and promotional work. Last summer she worked in the Fairview regional office on promotional work for 4-H.

Marian Baade will take her training at Ponoka. She comes from a grain farm in Saskatchewan and has had three years of 4-H experience. She obtained her B. Sc. (home economics) this spring from the University of Saskatchewan. She spent last summer working with "Food Talk", a federally sponsored program under Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Debra Sapiuk will take her training at Westlock. She was raised on a mixed farm near Vegreville and was a member of her local 4-H beef club for four years. She participated in a 4-H conservation camp, the Olds Selections, the Montana 4-H Congress and the Vancouver Island Exchange Program. She graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (home economics), having specialized in family studies. During the summers of 1978 and 1979, she worked as a STEP student at the Home Economics Laboratory in Edmonton preparing visual aids for the information kits used by district home economists.

Lorraine Fagnou will take her training at Warner. She grew up on a mixed farm near Melfort, Saskatchewan, and was a member of 4-H for six years. She graduated this spring from the University of Saskatchewan with a B.Sc. (home economics). Last summer she did

- (cont'd) -

District Home Economist-In-Training Appointments (cont'd)

research for the clothing department at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Home Economics into the ethnic and cultural costumes of the Ukraine, France, Germany, the Scandinavian countries and the North American Indians.

- 30 -

AL L691

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
AUG 7 1980

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Minister Of Agriculture Receives Present From Hokkaido Exchangee 1
Rural Electrification In The Early Days (Jubilee Series) 2
Antibiotics Are No Substitute For Good Management 4
Hog Price Support Levels Announced 6
Soil And Feed Testing Fees To Increase 7
Trees Available For Next Year's Planting 8
Branch Dieback And Foliage Browning Of Deciduous Trees 11
Pruning Tomatoes 13
Energy Conservation Field Day Scheduled For Tofield 15
Sedgewick Celebrates Alberta's First District Agriculturist 16
Head Of Systems Design And Data Analysis Branch Appointed 17
Head of Plant Pathology Section Appointed 18
ADC Loans Officer Appointed 19
District Home Economists Appointed For Lac La Biche And Stettler 20

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE RECEIVES PRESENT FROM HOKKAIDO EXCHANGEE

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, posing with Hisao Ueda who has presented him with an embroidered picture. Mr. Ueda is a member of the sixth exchange group under the Alberta-Hokkaido Dairy Exchange Program.

Prior to returning to Japan, Hisao Ueda, a member of the sixth exchange group under the Alberta-Hokkaido Dairy Exchange Program, presented Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, with an embroidered picture in appreciation of the minister's support and leadership in the exchange program.

Mr. Ueda, whose host in Alberta was the Armond Cloutier family of McLennan, took up dairying as a career because of an accident. Before that his occupation was embroidering wedding kimonos and ceremonial robes in Japan. He now practices his art as a hobby.

While in Hokkaido last fall, Mr. Schmidt visited former Japanese exchangees to Alberta on their farms near Sapporo. He also visited the four Alberta exchangees who are presently completing their year on Hokkaido dairy farms.

Mr. Schmidt believes that exchanges such as the Alberta-Hokkaido one can make a significant contribution to agriculture, and he is considering expanding the concept, possibly to include such areas as South Korea and the Peoples Republic of China.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN THE EARLY DAYS

by Spence Goddard

Only about a third of the farmers in Alberta had electricity in late 1954, but the push was on to get electrical power to all the farms in the province.

Rural electrification associations were springing up everywhere, and district agriculturists received many requests from farmers for schools on planning for electrical power and farm wiring. The farmers were anxious to have the facilities and conveniences enjoyed by city dwellers as quickly as possible. These included hot and cold running water so that they could have a bath in their homes, which would replace their Saturday night sponge bath, and inside toilets, which would eliminate long cold walks to the outhouse or worse -- carrying-out the chemical toilet which had a bottom that sometimes dropped out (because of rust) during its journey through the house. The installation of electricity would also mean the end of starting cars and tractors with fuel soaked cloths or hot coals, which sometimes started a fire, causing unnecessary excitement and the occasional loss of a car or tractor and/or the building. Electrical power would end such tedious tasks as bringing new-born pigs into the kitchen to dry off. The alternative was often the loss of the whole litter. Electrical power meant blockheaters, automatic pumps and water pressure systems.

It was in November 1954, that I started my first job with Alberta Agriculture's extension division as an instructor in rural electrification. Ken Fennessey, an electrician and now chief electrical inspector for Alberta, joined me as the second member of a two-man team. We spent about three weeks collecting our equipment, printing handouts and rigging up demonstration boards. We loaded all the material into a fairly new 1954 Ford and took off to conduct 13 one-week schools on planning water and sewage systems and farm wiring. The schools were held in an area that extended all the way from Manning in the Peace River region to Foremost in the extreme south of the province.

- (cont'd) -

Rural Electrification In The Early Days (cont'd)

I well remember when the farmers at one of these schools walked out of the hall at 4.30 p.m. on a Friday afternoon without so much as a "thank you", leaving us to pack up and lock up. The following Friday we were at another small community about 100 miles away, which had a different ethnic background. Here we were presented with a tie each and helped to pack up all the equipment and given a royal send-off. And today we think of culture shock as taking place only between nations.

I look back with a certain amount of nostalgia to the icy and rutted roads, to "hitting the rhubarb" near Slave Lake and to the pot-bellied stoves around which we huddled in -66° F weather.

About the Author:

Mr. Goddard was district agriculturist at Medicine Hat from 1955-1957. He spent the next nine years with Alberta Agriculture's field crops division as supervisor of special project (seed plants). The following year he was district agriculturist at Foremost. In 1967 he worked for Enzyme Industries Ltd. in Calgary, and then joined the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. He spent from 1968 to 1974 in Mauritius and Afghanistan as an extension rural youth specialist. He returned to Canada in 1974 and became district agriculturist at Drayton Valley. Three years later he went to Bangladesh under FAO in the capacity of an extension evaluation and training specialist. In 1980 he again returned to Canada and is now agricultural co-ordinator-international with Alberta Agriculture's extension division.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANTIBIOTICS ARE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD MANAGEMENT

by Dr. Frank Baker
Cattle Extension Veterinarian, Alberta Agriculture

Which side are you on in the current debate regarding the pros and cons of using antibiotics for preventing disease and promoting growth in livestock? Did you know that representatives of two major feed companies presented arguments against the use of antibiotics in feed in the February 18 issue of "Feedstuffs"?

Although Dr. Jim Green of Columbia, Mo., U.S.A. agrees that the use of antibiotics in swine feed has increased gains and improved feed efficiency, he points out that improved herd management and improved animal health practices are accomplishing the same results without the use of antibiotics in feed. He says there are numerous cases of antibiotics failing to promote better gains in herds where the animals receive proper nutrition, new breeding stock are isolated, internal parasites are controlled and a high standard of sanitation is practised. His research also shows that there are advantages to feeding antibiotics in the early growth stages, but that daily gains and feed conversion rates are not significantly different over the entire feeding period to those obtained when no antibiotics are fed. In fact, he found that pigs fed non-medicated rations were more profitable that those fed medicated rations.

In one trial where five different feed additives were tested on pigs of 75 pounds to market weight, the best feed conversion was obtained from the control group which received no additives.

Drs. J.J. Shull and B.P. Cardon of Arizona, U.S.A., question the validity of using results obtained from early research into this topic when those conditions no longer prevail. They point out that this early work was conducted on micro-organisms that were susceptible to any antibiotic and under management conditions that were very inferior to those of today.

- (cont'd) -

Antibiotics Are No Substitute For Good Management (cont'd)

Recent research has shown, for example, that the main cause of calf scours is E. coli bacteria, and that these organisms have developed resistance to the very antibiotics that are most commonly used in milk replacers to prevent disease.

When Shull and Cardon compared day-old Holstein calves fed milk containing antibiotics with calves fed milk containing no antibiotics, the incidence of scours in the calves fed the medicated milk was three times as high as that in the calves fed non-medicated milk. Their study also showed that the recurrence of calf scours was five times higher in calves treated orally with antibiotics than it was in calves not treated with antibiotics.

One explanation given for these findings is that the population of disease-producing bacteria or pathogens is reduced sufficiently to temporarily remove the clinical symptoms of scours, but many pathogens remain. Later, in the absence of the normal protective bacteria, which the antibiotics also destroy, the pathogen population builds up to the point where it again causes disease symptoms.

The above studies suggest that a reappraisal of the antibiotics in feed issue is badly needed. They seem to confirm what many animal health experts have thought for a long time — that antibiotics are too often used as a substitute for good management!

- 30 -

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG PRICE SUPPORT LEVELS ANNOUNCED

Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch has announced the levels of price support for April, May and June to provide a guide for hog producers who are buying and selling weaner pigs on contract.

Month	Guaranteed Return on a 170-pound Hog with an Index of 101	Equivalent Price Per Hundredweight for a 100 Index Hog
April	$103.82	$60.47
May	$109.88	$61.09
June	$105.22	$61.28

While the price a hog producer actually receives will vary from those stated above, depending upon his hog indexes, he can use the equivalent per hundredweight price for a 100 index hog to contract a reasonable price for weaner pigs.

The guaranteed returns are calculated by adding $35 to estimated feed costs, and the government's stop-loss payment is based on the difference between the equivalent price per hundredweight and the weekly average price announced by the Pork Board.

If, for example, the weekly average price in April, based on a 100 index hog, was $43.30 per hundredweight, the subsidy on an eligible hog, regardless of its index, would be $60.47 — $43.30 = $17.17 per hundredweight. Hence, the subsidy payment on a 165-pound hog would be $17.17 x $\frac{165}{100}$ = $28.33

If the 165-pound hog had an index of 105 and was sold on a day when the prices was $44 per hundredweight, the settlement from the Pork Board would be $44 x $\frac{165}{100}$ x 1.05 = $76.23, and the total value of the hog would be $76.23 † $28.33 (subsidy) = $104.56.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOIL AND FEED TESTING FEES TO INCREASE

Alberta Agriculture's soil and feed testing laboratory fees for a regular soil or feed analysis will increase to $10 on July 1.

Under the new fee schedule a regular soil test will include an analysis of one surface soil sample and two sub-soil samples taken at different depths. The old fee covered only one surface soil sample. The change is intended to encourage farmers to take deeper samples because they provide a better measurement of the fertility of a field.

A regular analysis of grain will include a test for moisture, protein, calcium and phosphorous. It will cover these same factors in roughages plus nitrates, pH level and fibre.

If requested to do so, the laboratory will conduct a selenium analysis for $2 per sample, a magnesium and potassium analysis for $4 per sample; or a copper, manganese and zinc analysis for $6 per sample.

Recommendations on fertility adjustments and ration formulations will continue to be standard procedure at the laboratory when the appropriate information is included with a soil or feed sample that is submitted for a regular analysis.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREES AVAILABLE FOR NEXT YEAR'S PLANTING

Are you planning plant a shelterbelt on your farm or acreage next year? Alberta's district agriculturists are now accepting tree applications for the government's 1981 Shelterbelt Tree Planting Program.

The government nursery at Oliver (northeast of Edmonton), which supplies free trees to farmers and acreage holders throughout the whole of Alberta, has just finished shipping 2.85 million trees for this season's planting. A total of 3.2 million were ordered for the 1980 planting season, and orders that the nursery was unable to fill will be supplied first in the 1981 planting season.

According to Herman Oosterhuis, supervisor of production at the nursery, poplars, Colorado spruce and mayday trees have been the most popular species over the years. Poplars are in great demand because they are very fast-growing, while Colorado spruce and mayday make attractive ornamentals. However, about a third of all the trees shipped by the nursery each year are caragana. This is because this species is very practical for field shelterbelts and because the seedlings are planted closer together than is the case with the other species.

Did you know that all tree planting sites, regardless of whether they are to be used for a field, farmstead or roadside shelterbelt must be properly summerfallowed the year before they are to be planted in order to qualify for government trees? If these sites are not properly prepared, your district agriculturist will probably not approve your application.

When planning your shelterbelt site, remember that the rows should be 16 to 20 feet apart. The recommended "in" row spacing for poplar, willow, maple and ash is 8 to 12 For spruce, pine and larch, the "in" row spacing is 8 feet, and for lilac, honeysuckle, hawthorn, chokecherry and dogwood, it is 3 to 6 feet. The "in" row spacing for caragana is one foot.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Trees Available For Next Year's Planting (cont'd)

Multiple row plantings, consisting of three or four rows of trees, are considered the most effective type of shelterbelt for breaking the wind and trapping the snow. Fast-growing species like caragana, honeysuckle and lilac are recommended for the windward side of the shelterbelt. Next to this row should be one or two rows of deciduous trees like poplars, maples or willows and then a row of evergreens.

Another thing to be taken into account when planning a shelterbelt planting site is that it must be 100 feet back from the centre of a rural road, 134 feet back from the centre of a secondary road and at least 234 feet back from the centre of a provincial highway.

Following is a list of trees that are available for the 1981 planting season.

For Farmers:

Willows — Laurel Leaf, Acute Leaf, Golden Leaf, Peach Leaf	-	Good Supply
Manitoba Maple, Green Ash, Bur Oak, White Birch	-	Good Supply
Poplars* — Northwest, Brooks #6, Griffin, Plains Cottonwood	-	None Available
Mayday, Sea Buckthorn	-	Limited Supply
Chokecherry, Hawthorn, Russian Olive	-	None Available
Vilosa Lilac, Common Lilac, Honeysuckle, Altai Rose	-	Limited Supply
Silver Buffaloberry, Cherry Prinsepia	-	Limited Supply
Caragana	-	Excellent Supply
Dogwood	-	Good Supply
Spruce — White, Colorado	-	Good Supply
Norway	-	Limited Supply
Pine — Lodgepole, Scots	-	Limited Supply
Siberian Larch	-	Limited Supply
Conservation Bundle**	-	One per order

* There are no poplars because of back orders that have to be filled.

** Contains 25 shrubs representing four or five different varieties that produce berries for human or wildlife consumption.

- (cont'd)

Trees Available For Next Year's Planting (cont'd)

For Acreage Holders:

Acute Leaf Willow, Green Ash, Manitoba Maple

Caragana, Common Lilac

White Spruce

Government tree application forms for the 1981 planting season can be obtained from all district agriculturists who also have a book of photographs which show what each type of tree and shrub looks like.

- 30 -

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRANCH DIEBACK AND FOLIAGE BROWNING OF DECIDUOUS TREES

The Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks has received numerous specimens and telephone calls this spring concerning branch dieback and foliage browning in deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves), especially in poplars and willows.

Plant pathologist Dr. Ronald Howard reports that no infectious diseases or insects were found in the majority of cases, and that the major cause of these problems appeared to be environmental stress -- widely fluctuating winter temperatures, frost injury, drought and windburn. Poor establishment, especially in the case of young trees, was found to be a predisposing factor in a number of instances, and shelterbelt trees in exposed locations were usually more seriously affected than those which had some protection. Dr. Howard says damage in the cases he investigated ranged from dieback in one or two branches to situations where a large portion of the tree had been killed. Some small trees were even killed outright.

It is because both poplars and willows tend to have shallow roots that they are more subject to moisture stress and freezing injury (especially when there is little or no snow) than many other species. Also, poplars and willows are susceptible to dieback because they frequently fail to produce enough summer wood (branch diameter) in the current year's growth to give them tolerance to winter temperatures. Young trees are the most prone to this type of injury. In poplars such injury manifests itself in the form of straw-colored branches that have a scar of healing tissue at their base. Willows may have black spots on their branches or the entire branch may turn black.

Dr. Howard says deciduous trees that have suffered frost injury to their branches or roots may leaf-out normally and then show symptoms of scorch and lose some of their leaves with the onset of warm spring or summer weather. Sunscald and windburn damage

- (cont'd) -

Branch Dieback And Foliage Browning In Deciduous Trees (cont'd)

usually occur on the southwest side of a tree. Typical signs are blistered bark, cracks and cankers which can cause the exposed wood to dry out and discolor rapidly. While some of these wounds may heal, those that do not are potential points of invasion for wood-rotting fungi and destructive insects.

The 1980 Alberta Horticultural Guide contains information on selecting, planting and caring for deciduous trees, which if followed will eliminate many dieback and foliage problems. It can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRUNING TOMATOES

Does removing the leaves from tomato plants increase their yield?

According to Dr. John Wiebe director of the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, there is no advantage to removing healthy leaves from a moderately vigorous tomato plant. If the canopy is too dense, he suggests removing only those leaves that are shaded and that are growing into the neighboring plant.

Dr. Wiebe bases this opinion on a study he conducted at Vineland in Ontario in 1968 and 1969. Part of the study involved measuring light levels within the plant canopy and the other part involved removing leaves in different patterns to measure the effect of the reduced foliage on yield. There were five treatments. In the first, only the yellow leaves were removed. In the second only two feet of mature leaves at the top of the plants were retained. This treatment was extreme and left a very open canopy. In the third treatment, four feet of mature leaves at the top of the plants were retained. This was a little more severe than the English method of pruning. In the fourth treatment, alternative leaves were removed as they came out. This treatment was intended to reduce the amount of foliage by half in a systematic way. In practice, the leaves that remained were somewhat larger than normal. In the fifth treatment, approximately half the leaves were removed, even though only those that were shaded by, or which themselves shaded, a leaf on another plant were taken off. The leaves that were perpendicular to the row direction were left, while many that were parallel to the row were removed.

The following table shows the marketable yield per plant and the average size of fruit.

Treatment	Marketable yield lb. / plant	Average size lb. / fruit
1. Yellow leaves removed	10.4	.32
2. 2 feet of leaves retained	7.1	.29
3. 4 feet of leaves retained	9.4	.32
4. Alternate leaves removed	8.7	.31
5. Overlapping leaves removed	10.4	.31

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Pruning Tomatoes (cont'd)

The plants which had only the old, yellow leaves removed produced the highest yield. The removal of a large amount of the bottom foliage (treatment 2) clearly reduced both yield and fruit size. The removal of less leaves (treatment 3) reduced the yield by only 10 per cent. The bottom leaves, which normally have poor light, are clearly much less important than the top leaves.

Treatments 4 and 5 had roughly the same number of leaves left. Some of the leaves in treatment 4 were well exposed to the light and some were shaded by leaves from neighboring plants. In treatment 5, where the plants had almost all their leaves fairly well exposed to the light, yields were as good as those in the check treatment even though they had only half as many leaves as the plants in treatment 1 and approximately the same number as in treatment 4.

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY CONSERVATION FIELD DAY SCHEDULED FOR TOFIELD

An energy conservation field day will be held on Vic Weins' farm, near Tofield, from one to 3 p.m. on July 4. The farm is located 2½ miles south of Highway No.14 and one mile west on Secondary Highway No.834.

Mr. Weins has installed an air-to-air heat exchanger in his 40' x 200' broiler barn to recover the waste heat from the ventilation system, and staff from Alberta Agriculture's engineering and home design sector monitored the heat exchanger for 47 days last winter. The field day was organized so that anybody interested in conserving energy could see the equipment that Mr. Weins uses and evaluate the monitoring results.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEDGEWICK CELEBRATES ALBERTA'S FIRST DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

The Sedgewick extension office and the Province of Alberta are planning to celebrate the appointment of Alberta's first permanent district agriculturist on July 11. He was Herb Scott, and he was appointed to the Sedgewick office in January of 1920.

Among the events planned for the celebration are:

. An invitational banquet for former DA's of the Sedgewick district.

. Open House at the Sedgewick extension office.

. The unveiling of a plaque by the minister of agriculture.

. Open barbeque.

. Memoirs of the past 60 years.

. Band music.

. A time to renew old acquaintances.

The open house will begin at 1.30 p.m., and the unveiling of the plaque will take place at 3.30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to participate in the celebration but tickets for the barbeque ($5 per person) must be ordered before July 2. Cheques should be made payable to the County of Flagstaff No.29, and the tickets should be ordered from the Extension Office, P.O. Box 270, Sedgewick, TOB 4CO.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF SYSTEMS DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS BRANCH APPOINTED

T. Alan Champion, director of Alberta Agriculture's departmental services, has announced the appointment of Darwin Daviduk to the position of head of the systems design and data analysis branch.

Darwin Daviduk

In his new position Mr. Daviduk will be responsible for the operation of the systems design and data analysis branch and for providing computer services to various users in the department.

After having taught school for a year, he returned to the University of Alberta in 1968 and obtained his B.Sc. with a mathematics major. He then worked briefly with National Revenue in Ottawa before joining Alberta Agriculture as a systems analyst in January, 1971.

He is married to Diana, the brand new father of a daughter, Kalina, and is well known for his curling achievements.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF PLANT PATHOLOGY SECTION APPOINTED

Dr. Bart Bolwyn, head of plant sciences, Alberta Environmental Centre, Vegreville, has announced the appointment of Dr. Ieuan R. Evans to the position of head of the plant pathology section.

A Welshman by birth, Dr. Evans obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University College of Wales at Abertystwyth in 1963, and he obtained a Ph.D. degree from the College of Agriculture, University of Florida, in 1969.

Dr. Evans joined Alberta Agriculture's plant industry laboratory staff in late 1974 after a five-year teaching, research and extension position at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. He was responsible for plant disease diagnostics and extension. In his new position he will also be responsible for program planning in applied research on economically significant plant disease problems.

The plant pathology, entomology and weed science sections of the plant industry laboratory became the pest management group of the Alberta Environmental Centre in April 1979, and the move from the O.S. Longman Building in Edmonton to Vegreville will take place this summer.

- 30 -

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC LOANS OFFICER APPOINTED

Lorne C. Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the hiring of John Bibo who will work as a loans officer with Garry Erichsen in the Hanna office. In addition to his duties as a loans officer, Mr. Erichsen acts as manager of that office.

Mr. Bibo was raised on a farm in the Magrath area and graduated from the University of Alberta this year with a B.Sc. (agriculture). His previous work experience includes summer assistant district agriculturist at Taber and technician at Lethbridge.

- 30 -

June 23, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMISTS APPOINTED FOR LAC LA BICHE AND STETTLER

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointments of Karen Pozniak and Debbie Brekke to the position of district home economist at Lac La Biche and Stettler respectively.

District home economists are part of the agricultural team and are contact people for areas of concern for rural families. With the backing of specialists and regional staff, they provide information when requested on all topics related to the home.

Ms. Pozniak grew up on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan and obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Saskatchewan in the spring of 1979. She joined Alberta Agriculture's extension service last fall.

Ms. Brekke was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and came to Edmonton in 1970. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (home economics) in 1978. Her major was clothing and textiles. She also has a certificate in architectural drafting from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

Following graduation from the University of Alberta, Ms. Brekke helped to set up and manage a Scandinavian furniture and accessory store in Edmonton. She joined the district home economist branch early last summer and took her training with Betty Birch at Stettler.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

AL 1.91

NATIONAL ... AGRICULTURE LIBRARY

June 30, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Recollections Of A D.A.'s Short Stay In Alberta (Jubilee Series) 1

Correction (Energy Conservation Field Day) 4

Results Of An American Beef Crossbreeding Experiment 5

Forage Conditions 7

The Price Of Hay 8

Knapweed — A Serious Threat In Alberta 9

Albertan Anticipates A Year In Japan 10

4-H Work Exchange Program 11

Pesticides For The Home Garden 12

Cultivar Trial Reports Available 14

Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies' Directors 15

Thirst Quenchers 16

District Agriculturist Appointments And Transfers 18

District Agriculturists'-In-Training Appointments 20

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

June 30, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECOLLECTIONS OF A D.A.'S SHORT STAY IN ALBERTA

by J.C. Brown

While my stay in Alberta was short, my roots there run deep for the following reasons. My father, the late Thomas Lake Brown, as a young man from Galt, Ontario, homesteaded with his family at Vermilion in 1907, which had one of the worst winters on record. Thousands of cattle perished from the cold and many were killed while drifting south and dropping over the steep banks of the Red Deer River.

The reason I mention my father is that he was the first graduate of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Alberta in 1918. Fred Bell and Bert Whitbread, retired district agriculturists, were classmates of my father's. Interestingly, my father was taught at the Vermilion School of Agriculture by the late J.G. Taggart who was deputy minister of agriculture for Canada many years ago, and, Art Wilson, retired field crops commissioner of Alberta Agriculture is a "shirttail cousin" of my father's, and, hence, of myself, with our common ancestors originating in Scotland and Ontario.

My father always spoke highly of Alberta, even though frost and hail forced him to leave Vermilion and go to Manitoba to farm in the St. Vital-St. Boniface area, where I was born. So, I thought it might be alright to try Alberta, and try Alberta I did, in 1956.

My first post was as assistant DA at St. Paul with Marcel Chevrette who is now with the Quebec Agricultural Credit Corporation in Quebec City. Marcel was a great district agriculturist, highly respected, and very active and very enthusiastic about farm planning, which he pumped into me with great fervor. Marcel taught me the fundamentals of human relations and good will, which I have not forgotten. I worked with many farmers through Marcel's farm planning program at St. Paul in the few months I was there, but their names have blurred through time. However, I do remember Larry Gareau, district agriculturist at Bonnyville, who is now retired, and Stan Powers with the municipal district, and now, with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

F.H. Newcombe, then director of Alberta Agriculture's extension services, now retired in Calgary, and a former Manitoban, advised me that I was to take over from Aubrey (Big Aub) Sherman, district agriculturist at Hanna, and that he was to proceed to Lethbridge to take up DA duties there. Aubrey is with Alberta Agriculture at Lacombe in the plant industry division.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Recollections of a D.A.'s Short Stay In Alberta (cont'd)

I won't forget that beautiful day in September, 1956, as I proceeded eastward from Morrin to Hanna past the Hand Hills and Delia and down the great steppe on the Prairies to Hanna, the site of the then controversial book "Next Year Country". Here I was in the centre of the special areas of east-central Alberta where many a human tragedy had taken place due to the interaction of podzolic soils, moisture, temperature, wind and the economics of grain and livestock markets in the 1920's and 1930's. I encountered one of the most outstanding men I have known, the late L.E. (Larry) Helmer, who passed away in January, 1979, at 90, after having been inducted into the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1978.

Larry was widowed, owned a large home and batched. At coffee one day he put a proposal to me — "Try living at my home" he said, "if you like it, stay" — "If I don't like it", I'll ask you to leave." We hit it off great. Larry knew every quarter-section and every township of that vast area of east-central Alberta. He was agricultural supervisor for the PFRA and was vitally interested in irrigation and livestock watering projects, which were, of course, the key to long-term development in that area.

Larry had a long history in Alberta — I always looked upon him as the "Original Albertan" due to his extensive experience in the agricultural, political and historical development of Alberta down through the years. It is interesting to note that Larry's father led a party that surveyed the 4th meridian in 1880, which is now the Saskatchewan-Alberta border. Larry kept his father's diary of that survey experience, and it is very interesting reading. Larry worked as a boy in Bob Edward's Calgary Eye-Opener print shop, and his recollections of that experience were, to say the least, extremely enlightening both from a human and from a historical point of view.

Cattle and grain were the mainstay in the Hanna area, where great distances separated the farms. The people there were very hospitable. The quality of cattle and grain were very good, but were always subject to the extreme vagaries of weather and markets. It was "next year country" indeed, but today's farmers have overcome, to a great extent, the "next year country" syndrome that plagued the area many years ago. I recall setting up a fertilizer project with Elder Berg of Cominco in the Hanna area. It was risky because of a possible drought, but fertilizer is now considered a necessity in that area, and used regularly by most farmers.

I also recall vividly an incident that occurred north of Oyen where I spent one day a week. Joe Ferguson asked me to come with him to see a massive bloat problem with cattle that had eaten alfalfa. It was a very dry year and the grass pasture was short, dry and brown. The alfalfa plants were few and far between and stood about a foot high. About 30 head of

- (cont'd) -

Recollections of a D.A.'s Short Stay In Alberta (cont'd)

cattle had broken into this pasture overnight, and 10 or 12 were dead with bellies distended and their four legs askew in the traditional bloat death posture. This illustrated dramatically that very little alfalfa, under the right circumstances, can be deadly to hungry cattle. The incident cost that producer a lot of money, even in those days when finished cattle were selling for 20 - 23¢.

During 1956-57 there was a wheat surplus, and grain elevators, curling and hockey rinks, annexes, etc. were all filled with high-quality wheat. The wheat surplus was so great that farmers were actually storing wheat outside in piles. At Acadia Valley, I saw 100,000 bushels of No.1 Northern wheat in a long pile on the Peter Scheurman farm.

Two things stand out from that experience. They are that surplus wheat has no value greater than its value for feed, and that wheat can be fed successfully to feeder cattle if handled properly. At that time wheat was being sold for 60¢/bu. for cattle feeding in the Lethbridge area and was being hauled in semi-trailer trucks from the Oyen district. Again, while time dims names and places, I clearly remember big 1,100-pound steers at the Ernie Warwick farm at Oyen getting 25-27 pounds/head/day of coarsely cracked wheat (No.1 Northern) along with straw, minerals and vitamins. They gained at a rate of 3 pounds plus/day.

In June, 1957, Lloyd Rasmussen, assistant director, Alberta Agriculture, now retired at Lacombe, asked me to travel with him to the Peace River region to look over the possibilities of being a district agriculturist at Spirit River and of solving some of the problems related to the Wanham Project (Lassiter Project). Lloyd and I drove into Grande Prairie late in the evening from Edmonton and found no hotel or motel rooms available except for a brand new hotel which was not yet open. We pulled up in front of it and asked for rooms. We obtained a room, but we had to make our own beds with brand new sheets, pillows and pillow cases. We were the first to use that new hotel, but, unfortunately, I can't remember its name. Jerry Moffat was the district agriculturist at Grande Prairie at that time. He is now with Pioneer Grain Company Limited in Winnipeg.

I am now with the Canadian Wheat Board, and I travel to Alberta regularly on business. Because of the contacts and friends I made there 24 years ago, my work is much easier, more interesting and more productive.

I have never regretted my DA stint in Alberta, but I suppose one is allowed to ask one question — what would have happened to my career had I remained in Sunny Alberta — the land of milk and honey (and oil).

- (cont'd) -

Recollections of a D.A.'s Short Stay In Alberta (cont'd)

I am looking forward to the reunion of district agriculturists on August 2 at the Edmonton Inn in Edmonton where I will be meeting such friends and colleagues as Marcel Chevrette, Jean-Marie Fontaine, Dave Jantzie, Big Aub Sherman, Stan Powers, Fred Newcombe, Lloyd Rasmussen, Eion Chisholm, Don MacPherson, Jack Anderson and many, many others. I personally hope all DA's past and present will attend. Nostalgia, exaggeration and fact will reign supreme, I'm sure.

About the Author:

Mr. Brown graduated from the University of Manitoba with a B.S.A. in 1952 and an M.Sc. in 1955. He was a director of the Agricultural Institute of Canada from 1967-69 and a director of the Canadian Society of Animal Science from 1969-71. From 1971-72, he was president of the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists and is presently director of market development with the Canadian Wheat Board.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

CORRECTION

The second sentence in the first paragraph of the article entitled "Energy Conservation Field Day Scheduled For Tofield" (June 23 issue of Agri-News) should read "The farm is located south of Tofield. To get to it, turn off Highway 14 on to Secondary Highway 834 and go 7½ miles south and one mile west."

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESULTS OF AN AMERICAN BEEF CROSSBREEDING EXPERIMENT

Is it true that a high level of hybrid vigor can be retained from one generation of beef cattle to another through a rotational crossbreeding system?

According to Chuck Huedepohl, Alberta Agriculture's assistant supervisor of beef cattle breeding, researchers in this area are now convinced of the gains which a commercial beef producer can achieve and maintain by using a well planned crossbreeding program. He cites results of a long-term experiment led by Drs. Keith Gregory and Larry Cundiff of the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center, Nebraska, U.S.A. and reported in the "Unifeed Beef Letter" as an example of the benefits that can be achieved by rotational crossbreeding. The American experiment covered a period of 20 years and four generations of cattle, and compared all possible Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn crosses with straightbreds by the same purebred sires. Purebred Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn sires were used to produce straightbred controls and corresponding rotational crosses in all possible combinations. A total of 3,470 calves were born during this period.

In this experiment the first-cross calves averaged 28 pounds or 8.5 per cent heavier than straightbred calves at weaning time; second generation crossbred calves from crossbred dams averaged 80 pounds or 23 per cent heavier than the straightbreds. It was also demonstrated that crossbred cows live longer than straightbred cows. Approximately 40 per cent of the 178 crossbred cows in the study that produced second-generation calves were still in the breeding herd when they were 12 years old compared with only 21 per cent of the 158 straightbreds.

The above comparisons are based on calf weight per cow exposed for breeding, and include cows that were not successfully bred as well as those that conceived but did not produce a calf.

- (cont'd) -

Results Of An American Beef Crossbreeding Experiment (cont'd)

Drs. Gregory and Cundiff found hybrid vigor had the greatest impact on reproduction and growth. For example, the increase in the survival rate of first-cross calves was responsible for about half the 8.5 per cent increase in calf weaning weight per cow exposed for breeding. In the second generation, where the hybrid vigor from crossbred calves and from crossbred dams was combined by producing three-way cross calves, the crossbred cows contributed more than half of the increased performance. This was because of the favorable effects of hybrid vigor on milk production as well as reproduction. The study showed that crossbred cows contributed 51 of the additional 80 pounds of calf per cow compared with the straightbreds.

Finally, the study showed that about 65 per cent of the advantage obtained from hybrid vigor in the first generation can be retained in a two-breed rotational system of crossbreeding, and that about 87 per cent can be retained in a three-breed rotational system. However, a considerable number of the advantages gained from crossbreeding would be lost in a breeding program where the producer retained enough straight cows to produce first-cross and straightbred female replacement animals. In such a herd only 50-60 per cent of the potential first generation gain would be obtained because of the number of crossbred females which would be displaced by straightbreds.

The conclusion of the study is that hybrid vigor should increase the weight of calf weaned per cow exposed for breeding by at least 15 per cent in the two-breed rotational system and by at least 20 per cent in the three-breed system.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE CONDITIONS

by Myron Bjorge
Alberta Agriculture

Fair to excellent rainfall has brought improved growing conditions to most parts of Alberta. However, overgrazed pastures and drought stricken hay fields, especially fields with a high proportion of grass species, have been slow to recover.

While it is still early to estimate silage and cereal straw yields, it appears that Alberta will have fair cereal yields with only average quantities of straw. The overall result is that all forms of forage including pastures, high protein legume hay for dairy production and low quality roughage for the maintenance of beef cattle are all in relatively short supply. Shortages of roughage in Saskatchewan and Manitoba will also place pressure on Alberta forage supplies. B.C. dairymen normally import high quality alfalfa hay from Washington, but since volcanic ash has affected much of Washington's first cutting, B.C. dairymen must look elsewhere for a considerable proportion of their alfalfa imports.

The following management practices are suggested:

- Cut alfalfa and alfalfa mixes early to maintain high quality and to increase the chances of a good second cutting.
- Harvest low yielding grass hay, or mixtures with less than 50 per cent legume, at the normal time. Very low yielding stands which have not headed out may be most efficiently utilized by grazing. An application of nitrogen fertilizer right after cutting will stimulate regrowth for fall pasture.
- Salvage other roughage, including straw and roadside hay. Cereal crops which fail because of drought or hail may still regrow enough for hay or pasture.
- Fertilize overgrazed pasture and do not graze it for four to six weeks to ensure proper regrowth.

Summer fallow can still be seeded to oats for hay or silage or to oats and/or fall rye for an emergency fall pasture.

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE CONDITIONS

by Myron Bjorge
Alberta Agriculture

Fair to excellent rainfall has brought improved growing conditions to most parts of Alberta. However, overgrazed pastures and drought stricken hay fields, especially fields with a high proportion of grass species, have been slow to recover.

While it is still early to estimate silage and cereal straw yields, it appears that Alberta will have fair cereal yields with only average quantities of straw. The overall result is that all forms of forage including pastures, high protein legume hay for dairy production and low quality roughage for the maintenance of beef cattle are all in relatively short supply. Shortages of roughage in Saskatchewan and Manitoba will also place pressure on Alberta forage supplies. B.C. dairymen normally import high quality alfalfa hay from Washington, but since volcanic ash has affected much of Washington's first cutting, B.C. dairymen must look elsewhere for a considerable proportion of their alfalfa imports.

The following management practices are suggested:

- Cut alfalfa and alfalfa mixes early to maintain high quality and to increase the chances of a good second cutting.
- Harvest low yielding grass hay, or mixtures with less than 50 per cent legume, at the normal time. Very low yielding stands which have not headed out may be most efficiently utilized by grazing. An application of nitrogen fertilizer right after cutting will stimulate regrowth for fall pasture.
- Salvage other roughage, including straw and roadside hay. Cereal crops which fail because of drought or hail may still regrow enough for hay or pasture.
- Fertilize overgrazed pasture and do not graze it for four to six weeks to ensure proper regrowth.

Summer fallow can still be seeded to oats for hay or silage or to oats and/or fall rye for an emergency fall pasture.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Phone (403) 427-2127 Communications Division

June 30, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PRICE OF HAY

How much is hay worth? In most years, hay prices can be equated to grain prices, according to scientists at the federal research station at Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

The following table shows the prices at which grain is an economical substitute for average quality brome-alfalfa hay.

	Price of Hay/ton		
	60.00	80.00	100.00
Wheat/bu	3.00	4.00	5.00
/tonne	110.10	146.80	183.50
Oats/bu	1.32	1.76	2.20
/tonne	80.65	107.54	134.42
Barley/bu	2.00	2.66	3.33
/tonne	91.60	121.83	152.51

The table shows, for example, that hay at $100 per ton is equivalent in cost of nutrients to $5 per bushel wheat, $2.20 per bushel oats and $3.33 per bushel barley. It is important to remember, however, that the figures quoted above are based on average quality hay. There can be a very substantial change in its value if it is above or below average.

The only way to be sure of the quality of hay is to have it analyzed at the provincial soil and feed testing laboratory. Then you will know exactly what you are buying or selling. You can also have rations formulated at the laboratory that will provide the most efficient and economical feed for your livestock.

Further information on feed analysis and ration formulation can be obtained from your district agriculturist or regional livestock specialist.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 30, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KNAPWEED – A SERIOUS THREAT IN ALBERTA

Alberta farmers in the southern part of the province are urged to participate fully in the program that has been established to eradicate all known knapweed infestations.

Stan Powers of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch reports that diffuse and spotted knapweed are rapidly taking over rangeland and reducing its carrying capacity to a fraction of its potential in both British Columbia and the northwestern United States. He also says that livestock industry losses from these weeds in Montana alone exceed $20 million every year, and that B.C. is experiencing a similar situation. Some ranchers in that province are already reducing their herds and some are even abandoning their operations rather than face the cost of trying to eradicate these weeds from about 100,000 acres of rangeland.

Mr. Powers stresses that only an effective control program and constant vigilance on the part of farmers will prevent the same situation from developing in Alberta "We already have diffuse and spotted knapweed in this province" he says," but, so far, the patches are still small enough for eradication to be both physically and economically feasible."

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Phone (403) 427-2127
Communications Division

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTAN ANTICIPATES A YEAR IN JAPAN

Rosceline Magnan and Noburo Tamura, general secretary of the Hokkaido-Alberta Science and Technique Exchange Association

Rosceline Magnan is one of three Albertans who will be going to Japan this year under the Alberta-Hokkaido Dairy Exchange Program. She will spend a year with the Yuasa family who have already hosted two other Alberta exchangees.

Ms. Magnan was on hand to meet the seventh group of Hokkaido exchangees when they arrived in Alberta recently, and she also wished the sixth group "au revoir" as they left for home after having spent a year on dairy farms in Alberta.

Before leaving for Japan, Ms. Magnan, who has a brown belt in judo, will represent Alberta in the Canadian National Judo Competitions at Baie Comeau, Quebec.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 30, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H WORK EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Clinton Stankievech and his family of Trochu are hosting Peter Dixon of Cornwall, Prince Edward Island, under John Deere Ltd's three-week annual summer 4-H Work Exchange Program.

Peter has taken over Clinton's duties to gain practical knowledge of beef and grain farming in Alberta. Six days after Peter's arrival, Clinton left to take over Peter's duties on the Dixon beef farm in Prince Edward Island. Peter will return to his home one week before Clinton leaves on July 13, so that the two boys can compare notes on their experiences.

By trading positions, Clinton and Peter are able to travel to another part of Canada and to experience first hand the similarities and differences between Eastern and Western Beef farming without having to worry about the work not getting done at home.

The exchange program involves all 10 provinces in Canada and is designed for 4-H'ers between the ages of 16 and 21 who would not normally be able to leave their farms because of responsibilities.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 30, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PESTICIDES FOR THE HOME GARDEN

Many pesticides have more than one formulation, each of which has its advantages and disadvantages. "The one most suitable for you will depend upon where and how you wish to apply it," says Marilyn Steiner of the Alberta Environmental Centre.

Dusts (D)

Dust formulations are ready-to-use, convenient, and easy to apply when only a small number of plants are involved and no special equipment is required. Their disadvantages are drift when there is a wind, unsightly deposits on the leaves of treated plants and poor adherence to these surfaces.

Granules (G)

Granule formulations are convenient for small areas. There is no drift problem with these pesticides and they do not require special equipment. They are recommended for controlling such soil insects as root maggots and wireworms.

Emulsifiable Concentrates (EC)

Emulsifiable concentrates are liquid formulations which require a sprayer and contain various concentrations of active ingredients, a solvent and an emulsifier. They may burn the foliage of sensitive plants and some drifting may occur under windy conditions.

Wettable Powders (WP)

Wettable powders must be applied with a sprayer. When mixed with water they form a suspension, which, unless frequently agitated, settles to the bottom of the container and may clog the screen and nozzle on the sprayer. These formulations will not burn the foliage of treated plants, but they may leave an unsightly deposit.

- (cont'd) -

Pesticides For the Home Garden (cont'd)

Aerosols (PS)

Aerosols are ready-to use and easy to apply, but they are expensive and not suitable for large-scale use. If they are applied too close to a plant, the propellant may cause a freeze burn.

Ms. Steiner says some home garden products contain mixtures of pesticides or a combination of insecticide-fungicide, and that there is a great possibility of wasting one of the chemicals or of unnecessarily contaminating the environment because most insect and disease problems do not occur at the same time. Some products combine a short-lived, quick-acting material with a slower-acting, long residual material, which is acceptable.

Ms. Steiner also says that, unlike fungicides, few insecticides or miticides need to be applied as a form of insurance. Exceptions to this rule are those pesticides that are used to control such underground insects as cruciferous root maggots, and those that are used to control gall-forming and mining insects and mites, which must be killed before they form a protective covering of plant tissue.

Most pesticides contain both stomach and contact poisons. A few,like dimethoate and oxydemeton-methyl, are systemic. Ms. Steiner says biological control agents are a safe alternative to chemical pesticides for specific insects. However, the only one available at the present time is Bacillus thuringiensis, a bacterial spore formulation.

Pesticides may also be grouped into families, according to their chemical make-up. The main ones are organochlorines (methoxychlor, chlordane, lindane), carbamates (carbaryl, propoxur), organophosphates (dimethoate, malathion, diazinon) and pyrethroids (pyrethrin, resmethrin, tetramethrin). Generally speaking, the organochlorines are the most persistent and the carbamates have medium persistence. The pyrethroids can be either very persistent or break down in a matter of minutes.

June 30, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CULTIVAR TRIAL REPORTS AVAILABLE

A limited number of copies of three reports entitled "Berry Fruit Trials - 1979", "Vegetable Cultivar Trials - 1979" and "Co-operative College Cultivar Trials - 1979" are now available to commercial growers and others interested in research data on new cultivars.

Compiled by the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, the reports do not contain production recommendations or information as is the case with publications like "Alberta Horticultural Guide" and the "Alberta Vegetable Production Guide". They cover 1979 research results of trials that have been going on for a number of years.

The berry trials were carried out at Brooks, the vegetable trials were carried out at Brooks, Edmonton and Peace River and the co-operative college vegetable trials were carried out at Olds, Vermilion and Fairview.

Copies of "Berry Fruit Cultivar Trials - 1979" (Pamphlet 80 - 1), "Vegetable Cultivar Trials - 1979" (Pamphlet 80 - 2), and Co-operative College Vegetable Cultivar Trials - 1979" (Pamphlet 80 - 3) can be obtained from the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, TOJ OJO.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 30, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES' DIRECTORS

Following is a list of the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies' directors and the secretary-treasurer for 1980-81.

Rennie Cormack, president
Westrose (Telephone: 586-2359)

Marjorie Heck
Manning (Telephone: 836-2090)

Russel Yurkiw
Radway (Telephone: 736-2188)

Joan Roberts
Elnora (Telephone: 773-3658)

Heidi Farkas
Bellis (Telephone: 636-3943)

Jim Tindall
Sedgewick (Telephone: 384-2173)

Morris Sinkwich
Wanham (Telephone: 694-2405)

Jerry Ash
Camrose (Telephone: 672-3640 - office
672-0023 - home)

Tom Reed
South Edmonton (Telephone: 467-7942)

Peter Wyllie
Vegreville (Telephone: 632-3892)

Margaret Matonovich
Secretary-Treasurer
Edmonton (Telephone: 427-2171 - office
435-1983 - home)

- 30 -

June 30, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIRST QUENCHERS

by Debbie Brekke
Alberta Agriculture's District Home Economist at Stettler

Here are some milk drinks that are different, cold, delicious and, best of all, nutritious!

Banana - Pineapple Smoothie

3/4 cup pineapple juice
1/4 cup dry skim milk powder
1/2 ripe banana, sliced
1/2 cup ice cream

Put all ingredients into blender. Cover and blend at high speed until smooth.

Fresh Fruit Flip

1 cup milk
1/4 cantaloupe or 1/2 peach

Combine milk and fruit in blender and blend until smooth. Sweeten with honey if desired. Serves two.

Strawberry Dream

1 pkg. frozen sliced strawberries – partly thawed
1/ 2 pint strawberry ice cream
1 large ripe banana, peeled and cut up
2 cups milk
1 tsp. vanilla

Put strawberries, ice cream, banana, 1 cup of milk and vanilla in a blender container and cover. Beat until creamy smooth. Stir in remaining cup of milk. Pour into six glasses. Garnish each with several fresh strawberries threaded on a kabob stick, if desired.

- (cont'd) -

Thirst Quenchers (cont'd)

Sunshine Cooler

1/4 cup frozen orange juice concentrate
1/4 cup ice cream
2 cups cold milk
nutmeg

Combine all ingredients and blend. Sprinkle with nutmeg, if you like, and serve cold.

June 30, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John Calpas, has announced several recent district agriculturist appointments and transfers. When making these announcements he observed that the division has experienced an unusually high (approaching 20 per cent) turnover of DA's during the past fiscal year due to promotions, transfers and retirements. The largest number involved six district agriculturists who assumed various positions and responsibilities in the plant industry division's field crops branch.

Recent appointments include the following:

Paul Dribnenki has been appointed assistant DA at the Fort Vermilion office where he will work with DA Rick Klippenstein. Mr. Dribnenki who is a native of Lac La Biche, Alberta, holds a B.S.A. and an M.Sc. degree from the University of Saskatchewan. Both his university training and work experience have been in the crop science area, and include three terms as a lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan and a year as a fieldman with the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture.

Fred Potrebenko has been appointed acting district agriculturist at Lac La Biche for a one year term while senior district agriculturist Harvey Yoder is away on an extension program exchange with New Zealand. Mr. Potrebenko comes from Rycroft, Alberta, and is a 1979 B.Sc. graduate from the University of Alberta. He has worked as a summer assistant DA out of Calgary and completed his district agriculturist training at Smoky Lake prior to his transfer to Lac La Biche. In addition to his farm background, he has work experience with Alberta Environment and was a fourth year student representative on the Alberta Institute of Agrologists' Council.

Ron Bazylo has been appointed district agriculturist at Two Hills. He succeeds Wayne Jackson who was transferred to the plant industry division as regional supervisor at Red

- (cont'd) -

District Agriculturist Appointments and Transfers (cont'd)

Deer. Mr. Bazylo is a 1979 graduate of the University of Manitoba and holds both a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. degree with an animal science major. He has had summer experience in Manitoba in apiculture, in 4-H and as an summer agriculture representative's assistant. He completed his DA training at Lac La Biche.

Roger Andreiuk has been appointed assistant district agriculturist at High Prairie where he will work with senior district agriculturist Frank Graves. Mr. Andreiuk comes from a farm near Spirit River and is a 1978 B.Sc. graduate of the University of Alberta. He worked as a summer assistant DA at Fairview in 1979 and completed his district agriculturist training at Sedgewick. He also worked for two summers with the Alberta Forestry Service.

Tom Goddard has been appointed district agriculturist at Drumheller. He succeeds Gerald Pilger who has returned to farming. Mr. Goddard graduated from the University of Alberta in 1978 with a major in animal science. His work experience included a summer with the plant industry division on field plot demonstrations. He completed his district agriculturist training at Lacombe, following a brief period at Airdrie.

John Vanderleest has been appointed district agriculturist at Thorhild. He succeeds Jim Soldan who has been transferred to Barrhead. Mr. Vanderleest is a native of Holland where he worked on a mixed farm prior to coming to Canada in 1956. He obtained a B.Sc. (agricultural economics) from the University of Alberta in 1978, and also holds a B.A. from Trinity Christian College, Chicago, U.S.A. He completed his DA training at Westlock and has a wide range of work experience in dairying, construction and grocery wholesale operations.

June 30, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS'-IN-TRAINING APPOINTMENTS

Alberta Agriculture's associate director of extension, Wally Klatt, has announced the appointments of five district agriculturists-in-training. The appointments are consistent with the division's policy of recruiting extension workers from among the agricultural graduates of the three Prairie universities and assigning them to on-the-job training at district offices.

The new appointments are as follows:

Nancy Nicholson has been appointed DA-in-training at Oyen. She is a native of the Lumsden area in Saskatchewan, and a 1980 graduate of the University of Saskatchewan with an agricultural economics major. Besides her mixed-farm background and extensive 4-H experience, she has worked for several summers with the Saskatchewan government's farm management section and the University of Saskatchewan's Agricultural Economics Department.

Pat Ramsey has been appointed DA-in-training at Peace River. He is from a mixed farm operation at Lumby, Saskatchewan, and is a 1980 graduate of the University of Saskatchewan with an animal science major. His experience includes 4-H and forestry.

John Ruschowski has been appointed DA-in-training at Smoky Lake. He comes from a wheat-beef ranch operation near Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, and has a 1980 agric-mechanics major from the University of Saskatchewan. His experience includes management of the family farm.

Lorne Turner has been appointed DA-in-training at Westlock. He comes from a mixed farm near Eckville, Alberta, where he was active in 4-H. He is a 1980 graduate of the University of Alberta and has spent the past two summers with Alberta Agriculture on forage demonstrations and as a summer assistant DA at Oyen.

Jim Untershultz has been appointed DA-in-training at Claresholm. He comes from Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, and holds a B.A. and a 1980 B.Sc. degree from the University of Alberta.

- (cont'd) -

District Agriculturists'-In-Training Appointments (cont'd)

Besides his farm background and 4-H experience, he has worked during his summers for Sherrit Gordon and last summer as a summer assistant DA at Athabasca.

The extension division has also employed eight University of Alberta third-year agricultural students to give them work-experience at district offices throughout the province. They will help to carry out a range of district agriculturist functions.

They are:

Twila Clark of Boyle who has been assigned to Manning.

Ted Ford of Edmonton who has been assigned to Stony Plain.

Patrick Hawkings of Bentley who has been assigned to Ponoka.

Raelene Morrison of High Level who has been assigned to Athabasca.

Brian Palichuk of Smoky Lake who has been assigned to Taber.

Garth Rowswell of Edmonton who has been assigned to Lamont.

Joseph Tindall of Wainwright who has been assigned to Sedgewick.

Fred Young of Edmonton who has been assigned to Evansburg.

- 30 -

AL - 691

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
AUG 12 1980

July 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Recollections Of A District Agriculturist (Jubilee Series) 1
Metrics For Irrigation Farmers 4
A Guide To High Quality Silage 6
Level III Green Certificate Graduates 9
Control Of Horn Flies 11
Baler And Bale Wagon Evaluations 12
Slough Hay 14
Agriculture Center Field Day 15
Processing Development Branch Appointments. 16
Coming Agricultural Events. 17

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

July 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECOLLECTIONS OF A DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

by Ross Gould

Work as a DA began later in my career than is the case for a lot of the fellows who take up extension. I joined the department in 1969 following 13 years of experience in a three family farm partnership.

The years of farm experience helped me to understand many of the practical problems of farmers, but I certainly wasn't prepared to answer the wide range of questions which come to a DA's office. Since my training and experience had been in livestock, weeds, insects and pesticides were all new areas for me. However, it wasn't long before I learned not to be embarrassed when I didn't know an answer. As long as the answer could be passed on to farmers from resources in our department, scientific literature or staff at the research stations and universities, I found the work very satisfying. I often remembered the last lecture of the dean of agriculture at the university of Alberta, A.G. McCalla, to the "Aggies" of the 1956 graduating class: "We can't teach you all there is to know about agriculture. You probably won't remember all of the things you have learned here in the past four years. I hope that your years at the univerisity have helped you learn how to find information when you don't have an answer." There is probably no person who needs that advice more than a DA!

I began work in Stettler in June, 1970, after 10 months of apprenticeship with Bill Proctor in Wetaskiwin. Perhaps a few anecdotes from my seven years in Stettler will illustrate why a DA's work is never dull.

I think most DA's get their biggest satisfaction from helping people to solve problems or to better their lot. Probably the best opportunity to do this in a material way came with the Agricultural Development Corporation's loan program in the early 1970's. For the first year or so DAs served as loans officers. We had a good understanding of the local condi-

- (cont'd) -

tions where farmers were making applications for loans, and we were in a position to help insure that a producer was aware of modern farming practices which would give his operation the best chance for success. At the same time many of us did not have the background in economics to be comfortable with partial budgets, cash flows, capital ratios and land appraisals. It was a time of learning for us all! I was very happy when the agricultural development corporation employed loans officers to look after the processing of loans so that we could get back to organizing extension programs for the district and answering technical questions.

In the early 1970's the "Exotic Boom" had just hit the cattle business and prices for livestock were buoyant. The Stettler district probably had a greater interest in the new breeds than most parts of the province. I remember hearing Dr. Ernie Graffe, the federal veterinarian for east-central Alberta, say that his area had had the lions share of the imported European breeds for several years, with the result that there was a great interest in R.O.P. in the district. By 1974 there were over 70 herds where the calves were weighed in the fall, and more than one calf in every 10 born in the county was being performance tested. It was always a treat when I could get out onto a farm and help weigh calves.

Sometimes a DA has some unusual requests which can be very baffling. I remember one in particular. About mid-February, a lady came into the office with some strange looking insects in a bottle. She had found them hopping all over her basement. They were less than a quarter-inch long and looked almost like immature grasshoppers. That was impossible, of course, because it was middle of winter. A search through references didn't show any other insects which looked at all like these. I asked the lady a few more questions and found that they were indeed baby grasshoppers! She had dug up some nice grassy sod on a roadside in the fall so that she would have good potting soil for her plants in mid-winter. The soil was stored beside the furnace, and by February the grasshopper eggs thought it was spring and began to hatch. The solution to the problem was simple. Since there was no source of food for the tiny

Recollections Of A District Agriculturist (cont'd)

hoppers, they would starve. There wasn't even a need to use an insecticide on them.

Life in Stettler district was good. The town of over 4000 had an excellent school with an indoor pool, first class drama, music and a band program that started in grade 4. Its athletic programs produced provincial championship level teams in hockey, football, baseball and fastball as well as two Olympic medal winners for Canada's 1976 swimming team. There were similar opportunities for adults. I was fortunate enough to be involved with a Gilbert and Sullivan light opera production for four years which toured the province from Consort and Drumheller to Red Deer and Edmonton. People who think that the only action is in the big cities have never been exposed to a town like Stettler.

It was with mixed feelings that our family left in 1977 when I took my new position with the animal industry division. Looking back, I am convinced that there is hardly a person working in our department who wouldn't benefit from working in an extension office in rural Alberta at some time in his or her career. I guess most of us have.

About the Author:

Ross Gould graduated from University of Alberta in 1956 having specialized in animal science, nutrition and genetics. Following graduation, he farmed in a partnership on the family farm at Rosalind until 1969 when he joined Alberta Agriculture. He served on the Council of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists in 1971 and 1972 and is currently head of the special projects section of the beef cattle and sheep branch of Alberta Agriculture.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

July 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRICS FOR IRRIGATION FARMERS

by Len Ring
Irrigation Systems Engineer, Alberta Agriculture

Litres, hectares and kilopascals are units that irrigation farmers will be getting used to as we convert to the S.I. system. Traditionally, units such as U.S. gpm, psi and acres have been used throughout irrigated agriculture, but, with the conversion to the metric system, calculations and planning will be simpler if we get used to the new system.

The learning process will be slow and perhaps painful, but the new units of measurement will be simpler in the end. For example, in our present situation, we use pounds per square inch and U.S. gallons per minute for characteristics of irrigation pumping plants, but when we talk about the fuel consumption that a diesel or propane pumping unit is using, we switch back to Imperial gallons.

Although there is a reluctance to change to S.I., it seems to make a lot of sense when one realizes that a person pulling 10 metres of cultivator at a speed of six kilometres per hour is covering six hectares per hour. Compare this to calculating how many acres per hour you cover when pulling 30 feet of equipment at a speed of four miles per hour.

In the S.I. system the unit for pressure is kilopascals (kPa). It is probably one of the least understood S.I. units, and consequently, I am happy to see that some members of industry are helping to inform farmers on the various metric units. Imperial Oil, for example, has produced a set of metric conversion decals with an adhesive back that can be attached to various pieces of farm machinery. The decals come in sets of three and show the relationship between conventional and S.I. units for such things as pressure, fertilizer spreading and weight and volume. With many of the pressure gauges being sold now showing pressure in kPa, it would be handly to have the pressure decal mounted on each irrigator's pumping unit, air compressor, etc.

- (cont'd) -

Metrics For Irrigation Farmers (cont'd)

Imperial Oil has provided Alberta Agriculture's irrigation division with a number of their metric conversion decal sets, and farmers may obtain one by writing to Len Ring, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Center, Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4C7.

- 30 -

CORRECTION

In the article entitled "Hog Price Support Levels Announced" (June 23 issue of Agri-News) the Guaranteed Return on a 170-Pound Hog with an Index of 101 should have been 104.88 for May; not 109.88 as stated.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A GUIDE TO HIGH QUALITY SILAGE

The time to cut grass and legumes for silage is while they are still relatively immature. Early cutting increases the digestible protein, available energy and daily intake of the silage, but it also decreases the forage yield to some extent. Hence, optimum results must be based on the best compromise between quality and quantity.

The moisture content of perennial forage crops may be 80 per cent or higher at the ideal stage for harvesting, but these high moisture levels, which cause excessive fermentation, seepage and a foul odor, can be reduced by wilting.

The following table shows the recommended moisture level for forage stored in various types of silos.

Type of silo	Ideal forage moisture
Gas-Limiting silo	35-40%
Conventional upright[a/]	60-70%
Bunker or trench[a/]	
Height - 12 ft or less	70-75%[b/]
Height - more than 12 ft	65-70%
Stack[a/]	
Height -12 ft or less	72-77%[b/]
Height - more than 12 ft	68-73%

a/ Top 2-3 ft should be 70-75% moisture.

b/ Above 73% moisture forage may benefit from a preservative.

The moisture level of forage to be ensiled in a trench or bunker silo should be higher than that for gas-limiting and conventional upright silos to facilitate proper packing. The shallower the silo, the higher the moisture level should be within the limits suggested in the above table.

Minimizing air contact with material in any type of silo is essential for the production of top quality silage. Only in the absence of air will the necessary acidity develop, and

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

A Guide To High Quality Silage (cont'd)

even when the required level has been attained, air entry must be kept to a minimum to avoid excessive decomposition and heating. Both cause a loss of nutrients and are likely to decrease protein digestibility.

The following are recommended ways of reducing the air in the forage before it is ensiled and of reducing the chances of air entering the silo.

- Harvest the crop while it is still immature because there will be fewer hollow stems.
- Avoid over wilting because water provides the weight needed for effective packing.
- Cut the material to be ensiled in lengths of not more than half an inch.
- Fill the silo rapidly and continuously. If filling has to be delayed for more than a day, cover the surface of the silage with a plastic seal.
- Distribute and pack the material evenly.
- Place an air seal on the exposed surface of the silage when the silo is full. If completely covered with baled hay, wet straw, etc., the plastic will provide a good seal.

Top spoilage, which represents the most serious potential loss in trench and bunker silos, can be kept to a minimum by covering the silage with a 6 mil plastic sheet. Ten to 12 inches of chopped fresh forage will do a good job of keeping the plastic in place and will simplify feeding because it can be fed along with the silage.

Mold and heating losses can be minimized in trench and bunker silos during feed-out by removing three to five inches of forage from the surface of the silo each day. A mechanical unloader is ideal for this job, especially when the silo is deep.

Continuous and even distribution is equally important in a conventional upright silo. A mechanical distributor, which is not expensive, is recommended for this part of the

- (cont'd) -

A Guide To High Quality Silage (cont'd)

operation. If a mechanical distributor is not used, and if the silo is less than 40 feet high, it may be necessary to pack the forage after every two or three loads, especially if the moisture level is below 65 per cent. In this type of silo, the forage should always be allowed to settle overnight before it is topped off. This is particularly important in a tall silo., where the last few loads should be trampled down to minimize top losses. However, never enter a silo where the material has been left to settle overnight without first removing the toxic gases by running the blower for at least five minutes.

Less attention to packing is required when filling a gas-limiting silo because of the limited amount of air that is present. Forage is usually preserved in this type of silo with a moisture content of 35 to 50 per cent, which results in a low level of fermentation. Hence, as long as the operator maintains the air seal by keeping the silo door shut, both fermentation and oxidation losses will be low.

Finally, to estimate the moisture content of forage, squeeze a handful of the chopped forage into a ball, and hold it for 20 to 30 seconds. Then release the ball quickly. If it retains its shape and there is a considerable amount of free juice, the moisture content is over 75 per cent. If the ball holds its shape, and there is only a little free juice, the moisture content is between 70 and 75 per cent. If the ball springs apart slowly and there is no free juice, the moisture content is between 60 and 70 per cent. If the ball springs apart readily, the moisture content is below 60 per cent.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEVEL III GREEN CERTIFICATE GRADUATES

Five of Alberta Agriculture's Green Certificate Farm Training Program graduates have received their Level III Certificates. They are Stephen Middleton of Picture Butte, Mark Davies of Edmonton, Wayne Benson of St. Albert, Don Thompson of Penticton, B.C., Lawrence Van Boven of Lethbridge and Anthony Vonesch of Calgary.

Mr. Middleton began his training under the green certificate program in 1977 and received his Level III Certificate in dryland crop production. He grew up in Ontario and came West after completing his high school so that he could meet the one year residency requirement of the green certificate program. He is 22, has two children and is presently employed as dairy herdsman on the Reid Cameron farm near Millet.

Mr. Davies began his training in 1978 and received his Level III Certificate in dairy production. He has lived in many parts of Canada because his father is in the air force and he attended the University of Alberta for one year. He has worked as sales supervisor and territory manager for Ronson Products of Toronto, as trainee manager for the Bank of Commerce and as assistant accountant with the Corporate Control Department of Great Western Garments. He is 24, single and is employed on his own farm. He recently received approval for a farmer's loan which he plans to use to build a dairy barn for 50 head of cattle.

Mr. Benson began his training in 1977 and received his Level III Certificate in dry-land crop and beef production. He received his early education in Edmonton and obtained a bachelor's degree in theology from the University of Alberta. He attended Lakeland College during the winters of 1977 and 1978. He is 36, single, employed as manager of Fuhr farms at Spruce Grove and is now a trainer for the green certificate program.

Mr. Thompson began his training in 1976 and received his Level III Certificate in dryland crop production. He was born in Montreal, Quebec, and moved to British Columbia

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Level III Green Certificate Graduates (cont'd)

in 1968 where he received some agricultural training before entering the green certificate program. He is 29, single and presently taking a four-month course in France.

Mr. Van Boven started his training in 1977 and received his Level III Certificate in dairy production. He was born in Lethbridge, but graduated from high school in B.C. He is 21, married and working for a dairy business in British Columbia.

Mr. Vonesch started his training in 1978 and received his Level III Certificate in dairy production. He was born in Calgary and took his schooling there. He has obtained financing through the Alberta Development Corporation to purchase his own dairy herd, and plans to lease milking facilities, etc. from a farmer in the Innisfail area. He is 32, married and has two children.

- 30 -

CORRECTION

In the article entitled "District Agriculturists'-In-Training Appointments" (June 30 issue of Agri-News) Pat Ramsey (second appointment) is from Lumby, B.C.; not Lumby, Saskatchewan as stated.

- 30 -

July 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTROL OF HORN FLIES

Although the full extent of horn fly losses in cattle often goes unnoticed, these losses can be very substantial.

Recent studies have shown, for example, that infested yearlings on irrigated pasture can lose from 18 to 45 per cent of their potential weight gain during the horn fly season. The lower level of losses occurred when the animals had been treated with an insecticide, and the only way they could be prevented was by treating the cattle throughout the summer.

Other losses caused by horn flies included up to 7g of blood per animal per day, up to 50 per cent of daily milk production and about 6 kg in weaning weight per calf. Horn flies are also associated with the incidence of pinkeye in cattle.

Insecticides for controlling horn flies can be applied in the form of a spray or dust or with a self-treating device. Dust contained in a shaker can and aerosol formulations can be used when only a small number of cattle are involved.

Information on the three different treatment methods for controlling horn flies and a table which lists the most readily available insecticide formulations are contained in the publication "Control of Horn Flies" (Agdex 420/651-3). It can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BALER AND BALE WAGON EVALUATIONS

The overall performance of the John Deere 346 baler, the Massey-Ferguson 128 baler and the New Holland 320 baler is very good, and all three balers are capable of producing firm, well-formed bales.

This is the opinion of the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) which has tested the balers. The average capacity of the John Deere and Massey-Ferguson balers was 10 t/h. It was 14 t/h for the New Holland baler. However, the capacity of all the balers was limited by bouncing in rough fields, and higher speeds reduced pickup performance.

The tests showed that the John Deere and New Holland balers required either knotter adjustments or bill hook replacements when sisal and synthetic twines were interchanged. However, the Massey-Ferguson baler did not require any knotter adjustments with either sisal or the synthetic twines.

It was difficult to obtain a consistent bale length with any of the balers, especially in non-uniform windrows. However, the variation was usually less in the case of the New Holland baler because of its high plunger speed.

A 40 KW (55 hp) to 45 KW (60 hp) tractor was required to operate all three balers.

PAMI has also tested the Kirchner 70F bale wagon and the New Holland 1033 bale wagon. Under average field conditions, it took an experienced operator about 26 minutes to load 70 bales onto the Kirchner wagon and six minutes to unload them. It took about 18 minutes to load 103 bales onto the New Holland wagon and five minutes to unload them. Both bale wagons towed well at a speeds of up to 30 km/h, but this speed was found to be

- (cont'd) -

Baler And Bale Wagon Evaluations (cont'd)

unsafe because the tire load when the wagons were fully loaded exceeded the Tire and Rim Association's maximum rating for the tires on both wagons.

At least a 45 KW (60 hp) to 50 KW (67 hp) tractor is required to fully utilize the capacity of these bale wagons and to ensure safe road transportation.

Complete evaluation reports on the balers and the bale wagons can be obtained in Alberta from the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, LCC Campus, Lethbridge, T1K 1L6 (Telephone: 329-1212).

- 30 -

July 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SLOUGH HAY

Have you thought about cutting your slough hay this year? It might be a good idea in view of the shortage of forage that is predicted this winter for many parts of Western Canada and the north-western United States.

If you do decide to use it, cut it as early as possible to reduce the proportion of very coarse plant material. Although slough hay is coarse and low in protein compared with tame hay, the yield can be 10 to 20 times that of tame hay harvested from an area of the same size.

Slough hay makes good roughage if it is fed with a high protein forage like alfalfa. It will be easier to mix with a high protein forage if it is cut up with a forage chopper, and it will also be more palatable. Slough hay can be used in prepared rations and as a filler in forage pellets.

Scientists at the federal research station at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, strongly advise checking slough hay for poisonous plants before cutting it. Two species of very poisonous plants , water hemlock and seaside arrowgrass, are found around sloughs and in other marshy areas. Water hemlock grows in fresh and saltish water, while seaside arrowgrass grows in saltish and alkali water. Both are very poisonous when fresh and are potentially poisonous in hay.

A publication entitled "Stock-Poisoning Plants of Western Canada" (Agdex 666) contains illustrations and a description of water hemlock and seaside arrowgrass as well as other poisonous plants. It can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

July 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURE CENTER FIELD DAY

Anyone who is interested in agriculture is invited to attend the field day at the federal-provincial Agriculture Center in Lethbridge on July 10.

The field day will be officially opened by the federal minister of agriculture, Eugene Whelan, and John Thompson, MLA for Cardston and chairman of the agricultural caucus, at a ceremony on the picnic grounds at 10 a.m.

The field day will emphasize research and extension programs designed to solve present and future food production problems, and there will be conducted tours of the center throughout the day. There will also be bus tours to the field plots and livestock facilities.

Visitors are asked to bring their own lunch and to use the picnic facilities. Soft drinks will be provided free of charge.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT BRANCH APPOINTMENTS

W.W. Ballantyne, head of Alberta Agriculture's Processing Development Branch, has announced the appointments of R.J. (Bob) Tchir and Murray Fierheller to the positions of project co-ordinator and food scientist respectively.

Bob Tchir

Mr. Tchir will be responsible for assisting and encouraging agricultural processing development in the vegetable, dairy and special project (e.g.,mushrooms) areas. He was born and raised in Edmonton and obtained his B.Sc. (general science) from the University of Alberta in 1975 and his M.Sc. (agricultural economics) in 1979. Prior to his present appointment he was employed by Alberta Economic Development.

Murray Fierheller

Mr. Fierheller will be responsible for encouraging processing and product development in the Alberta food industry, especially in the area of meat, and will be located in the O.S. Longman Building in Edmonton. He was born in Vancouver and obtained his M.Sc. from the University of British Columbia in 1974. Since then he has worked for Coca Cola Ltd., the Canadian Fishing Company and Fisheries and Environment Canada.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1980

Calgary Stampede
Calgary Exhibition Grounds
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . July 4 - 13

Provincial Agriculture Service Board Tour
Leduc County, Alberta . . . . . July 8 - 11

DA Diamond Jubilee Celebrations
Sedgewick Recreation Centre
Sedgewick, Alberta . . . . . July 11

Canadian Galloway Association - Annual Meeting & Stock Show
Claresholm Agri-Plex
Claresholm, Alberta . . . . . July 12 & 13

International Lily Show
Mansfield, Ohio, U.S.A . . . . . July 12 - 13

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . July 14 - 17

Plant Science Annual Field Day
Parkland University Farm
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 16

1980 Klondike Days
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 16 - 26

Canadian Lily Show
Royal Botanical Gardens
Hamilton, Ontario . . . . . July 19 - 20

ASCE Watershed Management Symposium
Red Lion Motor Inn
Boise, Idaho, U.S.A . . . . . July 21 - 23

Alberta Women's Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . July 21 - 25

Beef Breeding Research Field Day
University Ranch
Kinsella, Alberta . . . . . July 25

Provincial 4-H Sheep Club Show and Sale
Vermilion Fair Grounds
Vermilion, Alberta . . . . . July 25 & 26

The American Society of Animal Science - Annual Meeting
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York, U.S.A. . . . . July 27 - 31

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Lethbridge & District Exhibition Association
Whoop-Up Days
Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta ..... July 28 - August 2

Vermilion Fair - Hereford Mark of Excellence
Vermilion Fair Grounds
Vermilion, Alberta ..... July 31 - August 2

Alberta District Agriculturists Diamond Jubilee Reunion
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta ..... August 2

All Canadian Junior Hereford Bonanza 1980
The Westerner Exposition
Red Deer, Alberta ..... August 3 - 6

C A E.S. Workshop and Annual Meeting
Edmonton, Alberta ..... August 3 - 6

Agricultural Institute of Canada - Annual Meeting
Jubilee Auditorium and University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta ..... August 3 - 6

Canadian Society for Horticultural Science
Tory Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta ..... August 3 - 6

Soil Conservation Society of America - Annual Meeting
Hyatt Regency Dearborn Hotel
Dearborn, Michigan, U.S.A ..... August 3 - 6

Canadian Society of Extension - Annual Conference
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta ..... August 3 - 7

Canadian Pest Management Society Meeting
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta ..... August 4 - 6

7th International Conference On Raman Spectroscopy
Carleton University
Ottawa ..... August 4 - 9

The Association of the Faculties of Agriculture in Canada
Lister Hall and Faculty Club
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta ..... August 6

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Peace River Region Tour
Agriculture Institute of Canada
Edmonton, Alberta ..... (tentative) August [illegible] 9

Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Annual Congress
Montreal, Quebec ..... August [illegible] 9

Western Apicultural Society of North America - Annual Conference
University of Victoria
Victoria, B.C ..... August 18 - 22

International Congress on Dryland Farming
The Festival Centre
Adelaide, South Australia ..... August 25 - September 5

Conference of Interbasin Transfer of Water
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta ..... August 27 & 28

Canadian Agricultural Extension Council
Truro, Nova Scotia ..... September 16 - 18

National Dairy Council of Canada - Annual Convention
Convention Centre
Four Seasons Hotel
Calgary, Alberta ..... September 22 - 25

"Round-Up '80"
Exhibition & Stampede Grounds
Calgary, Alberta ..... November 1 - 5

Women of Unifarm Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta ..... November 5 - 6

Alberta Beekeepers Association - Annual Convention
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton, Alberta ..... November 5 - 7

Northlands Farm Fair '80
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta ..... November 6 - 17

Agricultural Business Management Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta ..... November 12 - 14

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
The Coliseum
Exhibition Palace
Toronto, Ontario ..... November [illegible] 22

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Western Canadian Dehy Conference
Travel Lodge Motor Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... November 18 - 20

Alberta Potato Commission - Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta ..... November 19 - 21

Alberta Potato Growers' Association - Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta ..... November 19 - 21

Seed Potato Growers' Association of Alberta - Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta ..... November 19 - 21

Farm Equipment Workshop
Holiday Inn
London, Ontario ..... November 23 - 26

Alberta Polled Hereford Club - Annual Meeting
Red Deer, Alberta ..... December 7

Farm Land Buying Seminar
Holiday Inn Towers
London, Ontario ..... December 8

Western Canadian Agricultural Economic Conference
Calgary, Alberta ..... December 9

1981

Unifarm Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta ..... January 12 - 16

Alberta Rapeseed Growers' Association - Annual Meeting
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta ..... January 29 - 30

Alberta Dairymen's Association - Annual Convention
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta ..... February 2 - 4

Government Relations and Results Seminar
Red Deer, Alberta ..... February 2 - 4

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta ..... February 9 - 12

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Canadian Agricultural Commodity Conference
Holiday Inn Towers
London, Ontario . . . . . March 2 - 3

Alberta Polled Hereford - Annual Show & Sale
Alberta Hereford Centre
Innisfail, Alberta . . . . . March 14

Northlands Stock Show & Sale
Edmonton Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . March 22 - 28

1982

Agricultural Business Management I
Goldeye Centre
Alberta . . . . . November 15 - 17

AGRI-NEWS

NATIONAL LIBRARY CANADIANA

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Reminiscence Of Early Extension Services (Jubilee Series) 1

Six Alberta Firms Receive Financial Assistance. 5

Emergency Water Pumping Program 6

Additional Financial Assistance For Farm Well Development 7

July Hog Price Support Levels. 8

Important Stored Grain Precautions 9

Birthday Bales From Alberta. 10

Avoiding Nutrient Losses In Hay. 12

Plant Industry Laboratory Moved To Vegreville 14

European Greenhouse And Research Center Tour. 15

Slug Spray Is Effective 16

20th Anniversary Of Ranch Day At Kinsella. 17

Rapeseed Herbicide Research Plot Tour 19

Diamond Jubilee District Agriculturist Reunion 20

District Agriculturist Appointments 22

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REMINISCENCE OF EARLY EXTENSION SERVICES

by Dr. Art Wilson

My first contact with Alberta Agriculture's extension service on the receiving end was from Herb Scott in about 1916.

I lived at Killam and knew Mr. Scott very well. He was a little man, enthusiastic, energetic, optimistic and in and out of our house at any time with some new project in which to get my twin brother, Hugh, and myself involved or perhaps the whole Wilson family. We must have been his guinea pigs. Nevertheless, he was held in great respect and what he said was gospel. We knew he worked out of Vermilion and was closely tied to the old demonstration farm at Sedgewick. This was prior to the opening of the Sedgewick office and the extinction of the farm.

I first met Herb through a school fair. He brought seeds to the school and told us what he expected us to do with them and promised he would inspect our efforts before the summer was out. This he did, and, as I look back on it now, it wasn't long before he had the whole Wilson family working on something. Over the next few years we had sitting hens on prize eggs, Berkshire hogs in pig clubs, calves on feed for the Edmonton or Calgary spring show and even a pair of lambs to feed, shear, prune and exhibit. Herb got the red carpet treatment in spite of it all.

I am not quite sure when he opened his office in Sedgewick because of his close association with the demonstration farm. I have wondered since if there wasn't a connection between the premier's constituency and the opening of the office. In any case Herb Scott was the Department of Agriculture.

I must relate a short story of our first calf on feed. Herb found a calf on the farm of Wm. Wallace who lived nine miles north of Viking and somehow convinced our dad on

- (cont'd) -

Reminiscence Of Early Extension Services (cont'd)

a rainy day, when everything was shut down at threshing time, to take a look at it. This was 1917. The tin lizzy was wound up and navigated the 35 miles. The calf was brought for us to feed. Our farm calves were all pail bunters, and we were quite proud of our efforts at the Calgary spring show.

I lost most of my contacts with Herb Scott from 1922 - 1934. I know that an older brother of mine and Herb purchased a Shorthorn bull in partnership and that the bull and all his male progeny, while being very good animals, were as treacherous as any dairy breed. Later at the School of Agriculture at Vermilion Mrs. Scott, in memory of Herb, awarded a prize of $50 in each of several years to a worthy and needy student at the school.

In early April of 1935 I was transferred from the School at Vermilion to open the DA office at Westlock. The farmer government of the day decided they might bolster their election chances by opening more DA offices. It apparently didn't help.

I was to be at Westlock on April 15. There was no briefing or instruction sessions; just get to Westlock, find an office and go to work. I made it to Clyde on the 15th but was snowed in for three days. I found working space at Westlock in an office shared with Archie Brown, the homestead inspector. My territory included Barrhead, Athabasca, Boyle and all and sundry north and west.

When the snow melted it rained and rained. Lesser Slave Lake became "Great Slave Lake". Roads were flooded and even the railway track was under lake water. I amused myself by watching Westlock people pump out their basements only to have the water run back in again. It was a good summer. Everywhere I went farmers wanted to talk hogs or politics. Some good promoters of each must have had a busy winter. I had little pigs in the back seat of the car, in boxes on a trailer or loose, with me trying to catch them. We certainly scattered a lot of good breeding stock around, but I didn't get to stay to see the results.

- (cont'd) -

Reminiscence Of Early Extension Services (cont'd)

Forage seed production was also a topic of interest. Stuart McLaughlin was growing Ferax alfalfa in rows in Clyde. Timothy seed was selling for 19¢ a pound, a real bonanza in those days, and somehow there were farmers at Athabasca growing crested wheatgrass for seed. They had a good crop too.

I must also mention Major Strange's crop testing plan, sponsored by the Searle Grain Company. Samples of farmers seed grain were grown out for purity testing, and there were several hundred rows to be checked for a field day on August 15. The major was to be there in all his glory. So I wouldn't make any glaring errors. I boned up on every known variety at the university and drove back to Westlock late that night. So help me, the temperature was below freezing by 10 p.m. and every straw stack between Edmonton and Westlock was set on fire. As you might expect there was not much interest in purity at that field day. Instead, everybody was asking "Should I cut my crop now or will there be grain to harvest?" The frost finished most of the crops through the whole area.

My DA service ended when the agricultural school classes started again in late October. I have hoped ever since that my farmer customers learned as much as I did. I made many good friends and saw a great cross section of humanity. From $600 settlers, homesteaders who lived off the land right through to that farmer type that just wouldn't be beat. Harvey Kull at Athabasca; John Parsons at Boyle; Johnny Phelan, the entrepreneur, hotel owner and farmer at Barrhead should be comfortably at rest. They earned it. I'm not so sure about Stuart Beat at Westlock. He was quite a revolutionary and his farm operation was too.

There were also the wagons -- that parade of farmers with all their worldly possessions -- going north and about as many coming back. My first meeting with Fred Bell of the Dominion Experimental Farm Service was in one of those parades -- we were both in the same muddy rut around Perryvale. Fred coming back from his illustration station at Meanook and

Reminiscence Of Early Extension Services (cont'd)

me trying to get to Athabasca. Two way traffic in the same rut was solved only by negotiation!

What a change in that country now because of or, I expect, in spite of my seven month effort as a DA.

About the Author:

Dr. Wilson graduated from the University of Alberta in 1934 with a master's degree in agriculture. While at university he worked as a weed inspector during his summers. From 1934 to 1941 he was an instructor for the Vermilion School of Agriculture. In 1942 he was field crops commissioner and subsequently the director of the plant industry division. He retired in 1970.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIX ALBERTA FIRMS RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Six more Alberta firms are to receive assistance under the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance. They are Beiseker Agri Services Ltd of Beiseker, Hi-Grow Fertilizer Ltd of High River, Champion feed Services Ltd of Mayerthorpe, Grand Prairie Feed Service (1971) Ltd of Grande Prarie, United Feeds and the Central Alberta Dairy Pool.

Beiseker Agri Services Ltd will receive $39,002 to establish a new fertilizer blending plant. The estimated capital cost is $260,015 and three full and part-time jobs are expected to be created.

Hi-Grow Fertilizer Ltd will receive $32,650 to add liquid suspension fertilizer processing to its present operation. The estimated capital cost is $192,058 and four new jobs are expected to be created.

Champion Feed Services Ltd will receive $15,625 to modernize and expand its facilities. The estimated capital cost is $78,125 and one new job is expected to be created.

Grande Prairie Feed Service (1971) Ltd will receive $7,321 to modernize its feed mill. The estimated capital cost is $48,805.

United Feeds, a division of United Grain Growers Ltd will receive $16,043 to expand its primary feed mill in Camrose. The estimated capital cost is $94,369 and three full and one part-time jobs are expected to be created.

Central Alberta Dairy Pool will receive $8,310 to modernize and expand its fluid milk processing plant in Lethbridge. The estimated capital cost is $55,398.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is intended to encourage the establishment, expansion or modernization of nutritive processing operations in rural Alberta. The assistance is equally funded and jointly administered by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMERGENCY WATER PUMPING PROGRAM

Alberta Agriculture's Emergency Water Pumping Program, under which dugouts are filled in those parts of the province where the rainfall has been insufficient, will remain in effect until freeze-up.

Under the program a pump is set up at a water source in the area where the dugout needs filling, and the water is piped to the dugout. The farmer pays $25 per day for the pump plus $100 a day for a mile of pipe and the trailer that transports the pipe. The charge for each extra mile of pipe is $50 per day.

Eighty-six dugouts have been filled already this season at an average cost to the farmers of just over $125. There has been a fair demand for the service in the Vermilion and Barrhead areas and a very heavy demand in the Peace River region

The government has one pump at Medicine Hat, Warner, Claresholm, High River, Oyen, Vermilion and Barrhead, two at Camrose and three in the Peace River region. More pumping units are scheduled to be moved into the Peace River region in the near future.

Anyone who requires this service or who would like more information about Alberta Agriculture's Emergency Water Pumping Program should contact his district agriculturist.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FARM WELL DEVELOPMENT

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) has increased its financial assistance for the development of farm wells for the 1980-81 fiscal year to $1,500 per well from $550. The federal contribution will be one-third of the cost of the well to a maximum limit of $1,500.

The rate of the government's contribution per foot will be increased to encourage deeper drilling from $4.50 to $5 for drilled wells and from $6 to $10 per foot for bored wells.

It is expected that the increased funding will cost the federal government $4 million instead of the previously budgeted $2.1 million.

The farm well development program is being administered through the following federal district offices.

Medicine Hat	526-2429	Lethbridge	327-4410
Hanna	854-3424	Red Deer	346-8958
Vegreville	632-2919	Peace River	624-3386
Westlock	349-3963		

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY HOG PRICE SUPPORT LEVELS

The following prices are published to guide weanling pig buyers and sellers who use slaughter market price in a contract.

Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch together with the market analysis branch estimate monthly price support levels for a hog indexing 101. The actual support price equivalent based on 100 index will vary if the index varies from 101.

Month	Guaranteed Return on a 170-lb. hog with an index of 101	Equivalent Price Per hundredweight for 100-index hog
April	$103.82	$60.47
May	$104.88	$61.09
June	$105.22	$61.28
July	$105.33	$61.33

The June 23 "Agri-News" release on hog prices erroneously listed guaranteed return for May as $109.88. The correct value was $104.88.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPORTANT STORED GRAIN PRECAUTIONS

Alberta farmers are urged to check for grain beetles in any grain they still have in storage every two weeks until it is marketed, and to thoroughly clean out all empty bins now to avoid the possibility of beetles multiplying over the summer.

These precautions are extremely important this year because of the widespread infestations that were found both last fall and this spring in all parts of the province. Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says that empty bins will contain some beetles if there were beetles in the grain that was removed, and that there could be serious problems again this fall if the beetles are not eliminated before the new crop is stored.

He recommends thoroughly sweeping out the bins, collecting up any grain around them and either burning or burying it and the sweepings. Then, two weeks before binning the new crop, spray the bins with one per cent malathion. Mr. Dolinski says spraying them now will help, but that they could get reinfested with beetles coming in from grain or buildings in the neighborhood.

If beetles are found in stored grain, either fumigate the grain or move it and treat it with the dust or liquid form of malathion, specially formulated for treating grain. The advantage of the malathion is that it will protect the grain from subsequent beetle invasions for up to 10 months, while a fumigant will only kill the beetles that are already in the grain.

Mr. Dolinski advises farmers who have had a continuing problem with beetles over a number of years to consider treating this year's crop with the specially formulated malathion as it is being augered into the bin.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIRTHDAY BALES FROM ALBERTA

Birthday bales! This is the unique way Alberta farmers in the M.D. of Kneehill have decided to celebrate the 75th anniversaries of their province and the province of Saskatchewan.

The Alberta farmers feel that since they got rain when they needed it and the Saskatchewan farmers did not, they would like to share the fruits of this rain by giving their less fortunate neighbors birthday bales of greenfeed at cost. Cost is 75¢ a bale or $30 a ton.

The agricultural advisory committee for the M.D. of Kneehill, which organized the Birthday Bales Project, has received a very positive response to the idea since its adoption about two weeks ago. They believe that they can come up with 75,000 bales and perhaps two, three or even 10 times that number.

The committee members have suggested that each farmer adopt 75 cows in Saskatchewan for about 20 days, which would take only 10 acres of greenfeed. They say "Anyone who is willing to commit 10 or 15 acres of land to greenfeed will be doing his part to help his neighbors through a very tough time." Many farmers can obtain greenfeed from 10 or 15 acres by cutting a small corner that is cut off from the main part of a field or by cutting a couple of rounds in a field while the crop is still green.

Some farmers in the M.D. of Kneehill are also planning to cut hay along the roadsides and slough hay to send to Saskatchewan, while others plan to bale some straw after harvesting.

The Saskatchewan government has arranged to have the forage picked up and trucked to those areas where it is really needed and to reimburse the donors to cover their costs.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Birthday Bales From Alberta (cont'd)

If you would like more information or to sign up for the Birthday Bale Project, you should contact one of the following:

Wilma Giesbrecht, Carbon – 572-3545
Bill Wood, Carbon – 572-3353
June Melnechuk, Swalwell – 546-2287
Linda Miller, Acme – 546-2689
John Molendyk, Three Hills – 443-7772
Alice Park, Three Hills – 443-7834
Jean Jones, Three Hills – 443 -7394
Mert McGhee, Drumheller – 823-9683

Edith Bruntjen, Wimborne – 556-2495
Russell Smith, Wimborne – 631-2314
Dale McCook, Huxley – 442-2483
Gary Gibson, Acme – 546-2376
Jack Hazelwood, Three Hills – 443-5503
Ted Nibourg, Three Hills – 443-5503
Grace Siemens, Three Hills – 443-5503
Gilbert Berdahl, Carbon – 572-3370

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVOIDING NUTRIENT LOSSES IN HAY

The recommended time to harvest legumes is when they are in the10 per cent bloom stage and grasses when they are between heading and blooming. Harvesting hay when it is overmature can result in serious quality losses.

It is estimated that as the plants mature, protein losses average 1/4 per cent per day and that the fibre content increases by as much as 1/3 per cent per day. The higher fibre content will reduce the digestibility and intake of the hay.

Andy Birch, district agriculturist at Stettler, says most forage is still relatively high in digestible nutrients when it is in the early bloom stage. Since there is no significant increase in volume after this stage, that there is no advantage in waiting any longer to harvest it.

Operations like swathing and windrowing, mowing and raking, baling, handling and feeding all contribute to dry matter losses in hay. Research studies have shown that shattering losses can vary from 4 to 20 per cent, depending upon the moisture content of the hay. Raking losses are reported to vary between 5 and 10 per cent for native hay and up to 25 per cent for tame hay, particularly if it is raked when the moisture level is below 40 per cent.

The baler pickup adjustment is important if losses are to be kept to a minimum. They vary between one and 3 per cent, but have been reported to be as high as 5 per cent when the pickup has been poorly adjusted or when poor windrow conditions have prevailed.

The shorter the drying time for hay, the better. There are research results that suggest that a loss of from 7 to 11 per cent of dry matter can occur between the time the crop is cut and the hay has dried.

Leaching is another source of nutritive losses. The longer the hay is exposed to wet weather, the greater the nutrient losses will be because the soluble sugars and proteins

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Avoiding Nutrient Losses In Hay (cont'd)

are readily washed out of hay.

Hay that is stored when it is too damp will heat. If the temperature in the stack exceeds 40° C, a complex reaction will occur between the sugars and proteins in the plant material, making them indigestible. Sometimes referred to as the "browning" reaction, it causes the hay to turn brown and to develop a tobacco odor.

- 30 -

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT INDUSTRY LABORATORY MOVED TO VEGREVILLE

Dr. Bart Bolwyn, head of plant sciences at the Alberta Environmental Centre, has announced that the plant industry laboratory has been moved to the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville from the O.S. Longman Building in Edmonton.

From now on the plant pathology, entomology and weed science sections will be known as the pest management group of the plant sciences.

All correspondence should be addressed to: Plant Sciences, Alberta Environmental Centre, Bag 4000, Vegreville TOB 4LO. The new telephone number is 632-6767.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EUROPEAN GREENHOUSE AND RESEARCH CENTER TOUR

Do you grow vegetables or flowers? Have you ever toured any of the greenhouses or horticultural research centres in Europe? Would you like to do so?

Mirza Mohyuddin of Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks is working on such a tour. He already has five people interested and needs only about five more for the tour to be "go"! It would leave here at the end of October, and participants would spend the next two weeks visiting the following horticultural establishments.

- The most famous experimental station in Holland for vegetables and flowers grown under glass. It is at Naaldwijk.
- The research station for floriculture in Aalsmeer, Holland, where they grow such things as chrysanthemums, roses, gerbras, hybrid lillies and friesas.
- The Institute for Horticultural Plant Breeding at Wageningen, Holland, where they breed new varieties of commercial vegetable crops.
- The Glass-Crops Research Institute at Littlehampton in England.
- Lee Valley Experimental Horticultural Station in England where they are experimenting on flowers, vegetables and hydroponic horticulture as well as investigating energy conservation techniques.
- Dutch and English commercial greenhouses where they grow cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce, cauliflowers, etc.

And what will all this cost you? Only about $2,000. If you are interested write to Mr. Mirza Mohyuddin, C/o Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO or telephone him at (403) 362-3391.

- 30 -

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SLUG SPRAY IS EFFECTIVE

Did you know that there is a spray that is very effective in controlling slugs?

It has been on the market for at least three or four years, but it seems that many people are not yet aware of it. Like the slug bates and pellets, its active ingredient is metaldehyde, but unlike bates and pellets, the slugs do not have to eat it. They simply have to come in contact with it while moving around the garden.

The one drawback to the spray, which is excellent for flower beds, is that it cannot be applied to vegetables which have edible parts already formed above the ground (lettuce leaves, pea and bean pods, cauliflower heads, etc.). However, it can be applied to the edges of a vegetable garden to prevent more slugs from moving in, and, providing great care is taken, it can be applied to the soil under the foliage of lettuce, peas, cabbages, etc. It can be sprayed on the foliage of vegetables like carrots, beets, turnips and potatoes because the edible parts are underground, but it is more economical to treat the soil around the roots rather than their foliage.

Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, reports that slug numbers in the province are likely to be higher than normal this year in areas that have received a lot of rain. He also says that the slug population has been building up over the last five or six years. A possible explanation for the wide distribution of slugs in Alberta is that they have been brought in from other places in the soil of imported plants and shrubs.

- 30 -

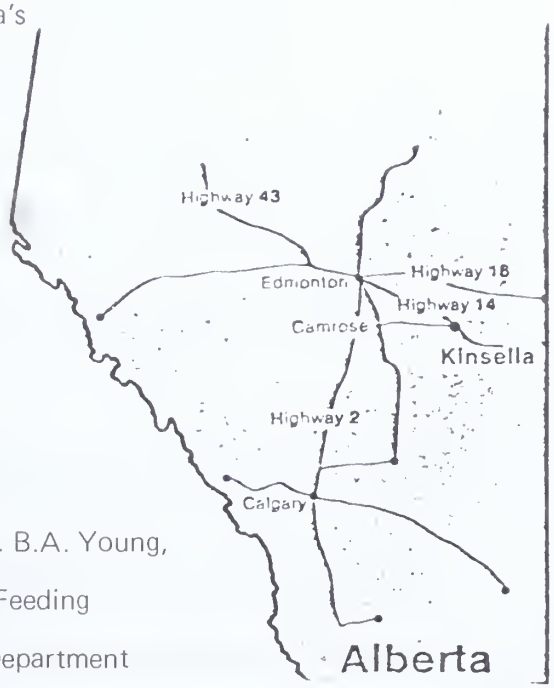
Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF RANCH DAY AT KINSELLA

The results of 20 years of genetic progress obtained by selecting from within a crossbred beef cattle population and by selecting from within a purebred beef cattle population will be compared at the University of Alberta's Ranch Day at its Beef Breeding Ranch at Kinsella (100 miles south-east of Edmonton on Highway 14) on July 25. The breeding project has been under the direction of R.T. Berg, professor and chairman of the university's department of animal science, since its inception in 1960.



Following is a list of the topics and speakers that will be featured at Ranch Day.

Wintering Cows Without Water — Dr. B.A. Young, professor, Department of Animal Science; Grain Feeding Culled Cows — W.C. Graham, graduate student, Department of Animal Science; Dark Cutting Among Virgin Bulls — Dr. M.A. Price, associate professor, Department of Animal Science; Meat Quality — Dr. Z.J. Hawrysh, professor, Faculty of Home Economics; Hormone Concentrations in Double-Muscled Cattle — J.B. Basarab, graduate student, Department of Animal Science; Reproduction in Double-Muscled Cows — R.A. Strath, graduate student, Department of Animal Science; Kinsella Recollections — Frank Jacobs, Stockman's Memorial Foundation, Calgary; The Kinsella Experiment — Dr. R.T. Berg, Department of Animal Science; and Kinsella and the Rancher — Sherm Ewing, past president, Western Stockgrowers' Association.

The program will include displays, ranch tours and a social in the evening. There will be free trailer and car parking and camping for anyone who wishes to stay overnight and

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

20th Anniversary Of Ranch Day At Kinsella (cont'd)

take a ranch tour the following day.

Further details can be obtained from Clare Findlay (ranch manager) at 336-2328 or from R.T. Berg at 432-3235.

- 30 -

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED HERBICIDE RESEARCH PLOT TOUR

The Alberta Rapeseed Growers Association is encouraging rapeseed growers to participate in a tour of Dr. Ashley O'Sullivan's herbicide plots at the federal research station at Lacombe on July 29. The tour is being sponsored by the Alberta Rapeseed Growers Association.

Dr. O'Sullivan is currently working on some promising herbicides for controlling of Canada thistles, cleavers and volunteer cereals in rape crops.

The tour will start at 1.30 p.m, and participants should meet at the administration building at the research station. Transportation will be provided to the plots.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIAMOND JUBILEE DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST REUNION

Alberta Agriculture's extension division has organized a commemorative diamond jubilee district agriculturist reunion at the Edmonton Inn in Edmonton for August 2.

Present and former district agriculturists and other Alberta Agriculture staff, farm organization leaders, officials and members of the farm press and individuals involved in, and observers of, the agricultural scene are all invited to participate in the ceremony. They are also invited to recollect the role of the district agriculturist and the significant contribution the provincial extension service has made to the agricultural industry in Alberta over the past 60 years.

Registration will take place between 3 and 6 p.m. and will be followed by a reception and banquet. After the banquet there will be a premiere showing of "The DA Story — 60 Years in the Making". It is a 1980 video-tape production by the VTR branch of the Alberta Public Affairs Bureau and features flash-back recollections and dialogues between former district agriculturists.

Two members of Alberta's Agricultural Hall of Fame, the well known journalist and cattleman, Frank Jacobs, and a former director of the extension division, Fred Newcombe, will be among the special guests. Mr. Newcombe is also one of the province's earliest district agriculturists.

The evening will conclude with a social and dance to the music of Tony Brophy's Sound of Gold Band.

The DA jubilee reunion, expected to provide a unique opportunity for both former and current agricultural staff to come together and to renew acquaintances, ties in with Alberta's 75th Homecoming Events and the 60th annual Conference of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, which is being hosted in Edmonton from August 3 - 7.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Diamond Jubilee District Agriculturist Reunion (cont'd)

An estimated 350 individuals have served as district agriculturists in Alberta in the past 60 years. Many have gravitated to occupations in industry, agri-business, government and farming in virtually every part of Canada.

Further information and registration forms for the DA jubilee reunion (which will cost $7.50 per person or $15 per couple) can be obtained from the Extension Division, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8. (Telephone: 427-2403).

- 30 -

July 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, has announced three district agriculturist appointments to fill vacancies at Wainwright, Falher and Foremost. The vacancies resulted from district agriculturist transfers and promotions.

Arvid Aasen has been appointed senior district agriculturist at Wainwright. He succeeds Bob Park who was transferred to the field crops branch as special crops supervisor.

Mr. Aasen, who has been co-district agriculturist at Wainwright for the past five years, now also assumes supervisory responsibilities for the Ryley and Provost districts. He is a 1973 animal science major graduate of the University of Alberta. Prior to joining Alberta Agriculture as an assistant district agriculturist at Calgary, he worked during his summers with master feeds and the provincial veterinary diagnostic laboratory.

Hector Goudreau has been appointed to the position of senior district agriculturist at Falher where he will assume supervisory responsibilities for the Falher, Eaglesham and Valleyview districts. He succeeds John Tackaberry who was recently appointed regional director at Barrhead for the northwest region.

Mr. Goudreau is a native of Beaumont, Alberta, and a 1972 graduate of the University of Alberta in general science (B.Sc. agriculture). Prior to his district agriculturist training period at Valleyview, he was employed for a short time by Alberta Agriculture's farm management branch. He has been district agriculturist at Falher for the past six years.

Delyn Jensen has been appointed district agriculturist at Foremost where he joins co-district agriculturist Dave Cubbon for the county of Forty Mile. He recently completed his training period at Vegreville.

Mr. Jensen was born and raised in southern Alberta where he received his early education. He holds bachelor and master's degrees from Utah State University, U.S.A., in animal science.

- (cont'd) -

District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

His prior work experience includes a year with the Blood Indian Reserve's agricultural program; guide and foreman with Timberline Stables at Waterton National Park (7 summers); and ranch manager for Deseret Farms, a large commercial cattle ranch with headquarters at Raymond. This job included extensive range re-seeding and irrigation forage operations.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
AUG 12 1980

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Rannoch (Two Hills) Community Pasture (Jubilee Series) 1
Botanic Garden Open To The Public. 3
Correction (District Agriculturist Appointments and Transfers) 4
Effect Of Management Of The Vigor And Cold-Hardiness Of Alfalfa 5
"Silage Additives". 6
University Of Guelph Horticultural Home Study Courses Offered Through Olds College .8
Seeded Pastures To Complement Native Range. 11
Grim Reaper Solicitations. 12
Do Not Add Wetting Agent Unless Recommended 13
Beware Of Collect Phone Calls 14
Composting. 15
Tips On Pressing Flowers. 17
Regional Swine Specialist Appointed 18
Manager Of Lending Appointed 19
New ADC Loans Officers 20
District Home Economist Appointed To Claresholm. 21

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RANNOCH (TWO HILLS) COMMUNITY PASTURE

by Alex Letts

One of the first community pasture programs intended to change the use of marginal farmland developed near Two Hills during the years 1957-59. When I was appointed district agriculturist at Two Hills in 1957, the program was underway, with some parcels of land already purchased. There was a considerable amount of concern among some of the residents as to the motives of the government in purchasing this large tract of land and considerable speculation as to its intended use.

Many of the farmers were having difficulty trying to support themselves and their families on these marginal farms and some were quite willing to sell their property. However, others were very reluctant to give up living on their farms and negotiations were often delicate. But, over a period of several months, Gordon Sterling, who was the "chief negotiator" for the government, was able to put together a viable tract of land and the pasture was underway.

There were all kinds of resulting activities in the community. They included the awarding of tenders for seeding grass on the cultivated portions of the pasture, unloading fence posts that arrived by rail carload, storing them and hauling them to the pasture and the construction of miles of fencing on hilly, stony ground. During this wave of activity, Alex Palin of the Vermilion School of Agriculture was made project manager. He co-ordinated and supervised the seeding, fencing, corral building and many other activites required to get the area ready for the receipt of livestock.

After all kinds of preparations had taken place, the day of the official opening of the Rannoch Community Pasture finally arrived. It was a beautiful day in July, 1959. Dignitaries and representatives of the provincial government and the county of Two Hills and members of the press and radio stations had been invited to attend. When the deputy minister of agriculture, R. Putnam, mounted a saddled horse in the cattle squeeze and prepared to cut

- (cont'd) -

Rannoch (Two Hills) Community Pasture (cont'd)

the ribbon to officially open the pasture, the horse became somewhat startled by all the activity and the sudden weight on its back. It began to buck! Fortunately, the deputy was a seasoned cowhand and kept it under control while the pictures were being taken and all went well from then on.

Since that time, many similar pastures have been developed in Alberta to make much better use of land that was really not suitable for cereal crop production.

About the Author:

Following his years as a DA, Mr. Letts enrolled in the faculty of education at the University of Alberta, and has spent the last 20 years as a teacher and as a principal in the Sturgeon School Division. He also spent a year teaching in Melbourne, Australia, and is presently an assistant superintendent in the Sturgeon School Division.

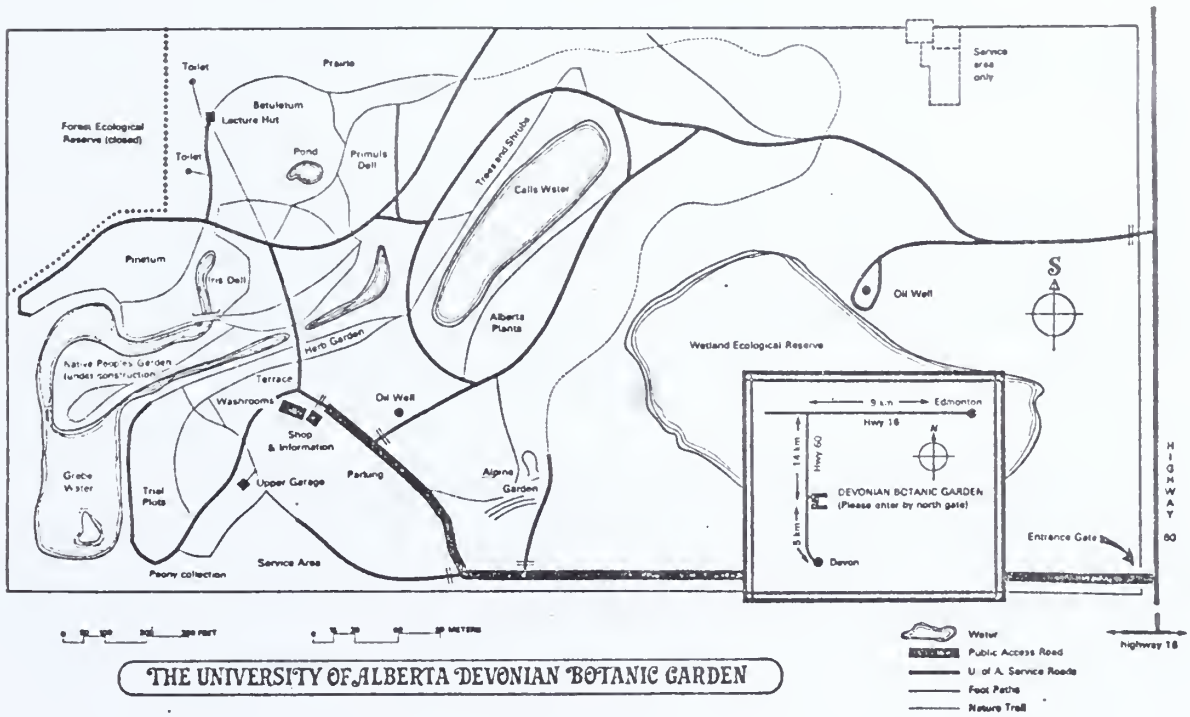
Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOTANIC GARDEN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



The University of Alberta's Devonian Botanic Garden, located 9 km west and 14 km south of Edmonton, is open to the public Monday to Friday from one p.m. to 6 p.m. until the end of September. Admission is free.

And what will you see if you visit the garden? You will see a large number of plants that are native to Alberta, which have been gathered from different regions of the province. You will also see a real alpine garden where alpine and rock garden plants have been assembled from all parts of the world. You will see desert plants that have been established on natural sand-dune topography and a herb garden. Because many herbs are annuals, they are at their best for viewing in the later part of the season.

The garden also features a peony collection, a collection of conifer introductions, which are growing among native spruce, pine and deciduous trees and shrubs. Two other areas

- (cont'd)

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Botanic Garden Open To The Public (cont'd)

in the garden contain examples of herbaceous perennials that like a moist, organic soil and semi-shade. Trees and shrubs that have been introduced from various parts of the world can be found in several places in the garden, and there is a nature trail to provide an interesting and an educational walk.

If you have any questions while touring the garden, feel free to approach the staff on duty or get yourself one of a number of informative publications that are sold at the shop.

This year there will be guided tours on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays starting at 11 a.m., one p.m. and 3 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays, they will start at 1.30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.

The Devonian Botanic Garden was founded in 1959 as a part of the University of Alberta's Department of Botany. Following the serious flood in 1974, it received a grant from Devonian Group of Charitable Foundations, the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower (1976) to rebuild.

- 30 -

CORRECTION

"District Agriculturist Appointments and Transfers" (June 30 issue of Agri-News) Roger Andreiuk was appointed co-district agriculturist at High Prairie; NOT assistant district agriculturist as stated. He is a 1979 B.Sc. graduate of the University of Alberta; NOT a 1978 graduate as stated, and he worked as a summer assistant DA at Fairview in 1978; NOT in 1979 as stated.

- 30 -

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EFFECT OF MANAGEMENT OF THE VIGOR AND COLD-HARDINESS OF ALFALFA

What effect do different cutting and irrigation schedules have on the vigor and cold-hardiness of mixed and pure stands of alfalfa?

A three year study was conducted under the direction of Dr. Stan Freyman of Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge to answer this question.

Dr. Freyman reports that total yields were significantly higher from pure alfalfa and alfalfa-brome plots cut three times in the season compared with those cut only twice, but that the three-cut schedule, where the last cutting was carried out on September 15, considerably reduced the vigor of the following spring's growth. Hence, if alfalfa is to be cut three times in a season, it should not be cut between about September 10 and September 20. It can be cut again in early October when the plants are entering the dormancy stage. However, a last cutting date on September 15 did not have any detrimental effect on alfalfa that was cut only twice in the season.

The research also showed that the proportion of bromegrass in those plots where it had been seeded was reduced to the lowest level in the three-cut schedule when the last cutting was carried out on October 10. The proportion remained the highest in the two-cut schedule when the last cutting was carried out on September 15.

Finally, the study showed that cold-hardiness is not reduced by the presence or absence of bromegrass nor by fall irrigation. In one instance the last irrigation water was applied on August 15 and in other on October 10. In neither case did the irrigation water appear to effect the winter survival of the alfalfa.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"SILAGE ADDITIVES"

Several types of products are being added to silage to either improve its preservation or to add supplemental nutrients.

Under certain conditions molasses, ground grain and whey (the fermentable carbohydrates) may be beneficial to hay silage, but they are not normally used for cereal or corn silage because these crops contain a large enough quantity of sugars and starches to facilitate rapid fermentation and the production of acids that preserve silage.

Research at several American experimental stations indicates that urea, ammonia and limestone act as buffers to the acids when added to grain silage. The result is a greater production of lactic acid-producing bacteria and from 40 to over 100 per cent increase in the production of lactic acid. Less energy is lost during fermentation when lactic acid is produced rather than acetic, propionic or butyric acids.

Calculations carried out by Oklahoma researchers indicate that fermentation in the silo can conserve more energy than a corresponding fermentation in the rumen where about 10 per cent of the digestible energy is lost as methane during the process. Less rumen methane is produced when silage contains a high level of lactic acid, which means, theoretically, that pre-fermenting the carbohydrates into lactic acid in the silo can lower energy losses in the rumen and leave more net energy for the animal. Thus, under ideal conditions, the overall use of cereal and corn plant energy can be improved by 5 to 10 per cent if the silage is made at the proper moisture level (30 to 35 per cent dry matter) and a buffering agent is added.

The addition of ammonia to grain silage has also been shown to reduce the growth of mold. It is thought that the breakdown of the original plant protein may be reduced by the addition of ammonia.

- (cont'd) -

"Silage Additives" (cont'd)

However, the above benefits may be more than offset in the case of corn silage by the high requirement for protein of lightweight beef cattle and high-producing dairy cattle whose needs cannot be met entirely by substituting non-protein nitrogen (NPN) for a natural protein supplement. Also, protein quality may be reduced during fermentation to between 60 and 70 per cent of the value of that in a fresh corn plant. Consequently, proper supplementation is critical to ensure the maximum use of silage energy. Although the addition of NPN can greatly reduce the cost of providing supplemental natural nitrogen, the amount of substitution that can be done profitably will depend upon the stage of growth in the case of the beef cattle and upon the level of milk production in the case of the dairy cattle as well as upon the cost of the natural protein supplement.

According to Ross Gould, livestock specialist with Alberta Agriculture, the performance of biological additives such as bacterial cultures and enzymes in silage is very variable. He reports that scientists are still unsure of the types of crops and the conditions under which such additives as bacterial cultures and enzymes will improve the quality of silage. However, these products are now being extensively tested at two American mid-western experimental stations and it is hoped that definite recommendations on these products will be available in the near future.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH HORTICULTURAL HOME STUDY COURSES OFFERED THROUGH OLDS COLLEGE

Through a co-operative arrangement with the University of Guelph in Ontario, Olds College is now offering a number credit and non-credit home study courses in horticulture.

The five credit courses have been prepared by the Office of Continuing Education at Guelph and may be used for credits towards an Ontario Diploma in Horticulture, providing the student meets all the pre-registration requirements set out by the University of Guelph. These include such things as academic standing , age and prescribed time limit.

The courses may also be used for credits at Olds College, providing they are relevant to the program in which the student plans to enroll, or they may be taken for the sheer enjoyment of learning about horticulture. In either case, the student can start and finish the course when it is convenient to him or her.

Following is a list of the credit courses, some of which are multi-media (contain a written text, a cassette tape, a film strip and a viewer) while the others consist of written material only.

Qualified Plantsman

A course of great value to all horticulturists from hobby gardeners to commercial horticultural producers. Some of the topics covered are: plant use, soil use, lawns, insect pests, annuals, biennials, herbs, fruits, bulbs and organic gardening. Evaluation consists of four mail-in assignments and a final examination. It is a multi-media presentation. Price $100.

Nursery Management

An introductory study on operating a nursery business, including nursery layout, plant production, harvesting, shipping, storage, etc. It is a multi-media presentation. Price $65.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

University Of Guelph Horticultural Home Study
Courses Offered Through Olds College (cont'd)

Fundamentals Of Garden Design

A study of the principles of designing modern landscapes on large and small properties with emphasis on plant materials and choice of location. Price $50.

Elementary Greenhouse Management

An introductory course on greenhouse design, heating, cooling, soils, lighting, factors, temperature and humidity. A general knowledge of botany would be an asset in this course, which is a multi-media presentation. Price $55.

Introduction To Turf Management

An introductory study of turf production involving soil and soil amendments, drainage, irrigation, plant species, the use of turf and turf machinery, diseases and pests. Price $50.

It is hoped that the following Guelph University credit courses will be available for distribution in Alberta by September 1 of this year.

. Elementary plant Propagation— Multi-media — Price $60.

. Plant Nutrition — Price $85.

. Landscape Design and Installation — Multi-media — Price $75.

. Arboriculture — Price $60.

. Weed Control in Turf — Multi-media — Price $75.

Non-Credit Horticulture Courses Available From Olds College

These small home study units are intended to provide the user with a great deal of very worthwhile information on the topic concerned. However, since units contain very little background theory, they are primarily intended for the amateur. They carry no credit value toward a diploma at either Guelph University or Olds College.

- (cont'd) -

University of Guelph Horticultural Home Study
Courses Offered Through Olds College (cont'd)

Following is a list of units which are all multi-media presentations.

. Flower Arranging – Price $22.

. Indoor Plants – Price $20.

. Propagation of Tropical Plants – Price $20.

. Deciduous Trees – Price $20.

It is hoped that the following additions will be available by September 1 of this year.

. Plant Propagation for the Home Owner – Multi-media – Price $50.

. Plant Use in the Home Landscape – Multi-media – Price $70.

Olds College also hopes to eventually have a complete line of agricultural home study courses that are offered by Guelph University.

For further information and/or application forms contact:

Correspondence Office,
Olds College,
Olds, TOM 1PO.

- 30 -

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEEDED PASTURES TO COMPLEMENT NATIVE RANGE

Grazing studies conducted by the federal research station at Lethbridge show that the use of seeded pastures to complement native range is of particular value in a drought year.

Cattle can be kept off the native range until the end of June if a seeded pasture is available for spring grazing. By that time the range will usually have produced about two-thirds of its seasonal growth and will have passed its critical growth stage. A seeded pasture will also extend the fall grazing period.

Crested wheatgrass is a cool season grass that is ideal for spring grazing. Its growth starts two to three weeks earlier than native range grasses, and it grows rapidly in the early spring. Other advantages are that it can withstand close grazing and trampling and that it is relatively palatable and nutritious until it heads out. Crested wheatgrass is easy to establish and is adapted to sandy soils.

Russian wildrye provides early spring grazing as well as fall grazing. In fact, it provides a very good late summer and fall pasture because it maintains a relatively high protein content long after some other grasses have dried out. Russian wildrye recovers rapidly after it has been grazed and it grows fast after fall rains. It is also drought tolerant and long-lived. However, it takes longer to establish than crested wheatgrass.

Pubescent or intermediate wheatgrass, orchardgrass and meadow foxtail can be used in moist areas of the province. They begin to grow two to three weeks earlier than native range grasses and are very nutritious in the spring.

Seeding grasses with a legume like alfalfa, sweet clover, sainfoin or cicer milk vetch will increase both the production and nutritive value of a seeded pasture, the Lethbridge scientists say.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRIM REAPER SOLICITATIONS

A company known as Hyde Park Chemicals, based in London, Ontario, has been contacting Alberta farmers by telephone in attempt to sell them a soil sterilant called "Grim Reaper".

According to the source of this information, Alberta Agriculture's Plant Industry Newsletter, the salesmen in Ontario do not usually give their names, but one had been identified as Dick Thomas of Rexdale.

The salesmen are apparently making extravagent claims for "Grim Reaper", which contains a low concentration of bromacil (Hyvar-XL) + 2, 4-D + pentachlorophenol. Although the product is registered under the Alberta Pest Control Act, the provincial weed control branch has very little information on it, and the company has refused to provide any literature or even a label. The cost quoted is $52.50 per gallon.

The Alberta weed control staff suggest that the best method of dealing with solicitations to buy this product is probably to hang up the telephone on the salesman. They point out that there are products available from reputable companies that will do the same job at a reasonable price.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DO NOT ADD A WETTING AGENT UNLESS RECOMMENDED

Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch has received a number of enquiries about a detergent-type wetting agent that is being claimed by salesmen to provide better weed control, and, in some cases, to reduce the amount of chemical required.

Weed control specialst, Shaffeek Ali says there is no research information available to substantiate the above claims. He also points out that most commonly used herbicides contain a sufficient volume of the required wetting agent to achieve optimum results.

"We advise farmers" he says, "not to add a wetting agent to a herbicide unless its addition is recommended on the product label. If a wetting agent is added when it is not recommended, the result could be significant crop injury."

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEWARE OF COLLECT PHONE CALLS

A number of Alberta farmers have recently received collect telephone calls from Brantford, Ontario, promoting a detergent-type barn cleaner.

To date Alberta Agriculture officials have no details on the company which is promoting this product nor on the product itself, but they remind farmers that they are under no obligation to accept these collect calls. Anybody who does so will naturally assume the responsibility of paying for them.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPOSTING

by Andy Birch
Alberta Agriculture's District Agriculturist at Stettler

Composting is an easy and effective way of recycling various garden and home wastes. Solid organic wastes are biologically degraded and converted into a humus like product that is useful as a soil conditioner.

Grass clippings, leaves from harvested vegetables, fallen leaves from deciduous trees and shrubs and kitchen wastes like potato peelings, egg shells, cabbage leaves, etc. can all be used to make compost. However, don't add meat and dairy products because they will attract vermin. There should be little or no odor emitted from compost. A foul odor indicates too much moisture.

Building a Composter

When constructing a composter, choose a location that is well drained and easily accessible.

The composter can be in the form of a simple pile, a pit, movable frames or a commercial structure. A firm structure is more suitable because it permits the building of a more compact pile.

A container of about one cubic yard will be satisfactory in most cases, but the size will vary with the size of the garden and the quantity of material to be composted. A single-bin or two-bin frame sheeted with 3/8 - 1/2 inch exterior grade plywood should be adequate. Treat the surface of the plywood with a wood preservative and drill several holes about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. They should be spaced 7 - 8 inches apart. Aeration is important for good composting.

Composting Method

When putting material into a composter, spread it evenly. Do not pile it in the centre, and water it well during dry periods. When the particles glisten, there is sufficient

- (cont'd) -

Composting (cont'd)

water. If the material begins to smell, there is too much moisture present, which can be remedied by turning the material more frequently until the odor disappears. Mix the pile thoroughly to supply oxygen to the interior and turn it at least once a week.

Although it is not necessary to add a composter starter such as lime, a fertilizer or earth, you will hasten the process by doing so. To use a starter, throw a few shovelfuls of fertile soil or a couple handfuls of a nitrogen fertilizer such as 10 - 6 - 4 or 16 - 8 - 8 on the compost from time to time as layers of material build up.

When to Use

Compost is ready to use when the material is dark brown to black in color and has an earthy odor. Dig eight inches below the surface to find material that is well composted and apply and incorporate it into the soil after the garden has been harvested in the fall. Garden refuse material can then be placed into the composter for the following spring's use. It usually takes from three to six months before composted material is ready to use.

In Summary:

. keep waste material compact and moist.

. avoid contaminating the compost with ripe weed seeds.

. do not add diseased garden refuse.

. tramp each layer of refuse as it is added to make it compact.

. turn material once a week.

. keep material moist and provide drainage holes to remove moisture if the walls of the composter are solid.

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIPS ON PRESSING FLOWERS

Have you ever pressed flowers? It is easy and it is fun. And you can express your creativity while preserving your favorite flowers.

You will need a press, which you can make from plywood, cardboard, etc; clamps or weights, in the form of bricks or books to hold the sheets of plywood or cardboard together, a pair of tweezers and some blotting or ordinary paper. The paper is to absorb the moisture from the flowers. You will also need freshly picked flowers that are either approaching or in full bloom. However, you can press the buds as well.

When you have assembled your supplies, put a piece of blotting or ordinary paper on a sheet of plywood, cardboard, etc. and lay the flowers on it, being careful not to let them overlap. Then cover them with a piece of paper and another sheet of plywood or cardboard. You can place five or six of these layers on top of each other, and then put your weights or use clamps to hold them together. You should change the paper every day for a few days so that all the moisture is absorbed from the flowers and their color is preserved. Small flowers often take about three weeks to dry, while the large ones normally take a month. Remove the flowers with tweezers when they are completely dry.

If you want to press flowers that have a high centre, place them face up, and cut holes in the paper that you put on top of them to avoid flattening their centres.

It is fun to experiment by pressing different types of cultivated and wildflowers, stems, leaves and grasses. Pansies, violets cosmos, daisies, zinnias and buttercups are among the flowers that press well, while yellow and pink flowers are the ones that keep their color best.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL SWINE SPECIALIST APPOINTED

Fred Schuld, head of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch, has announced the appointment of Alan George to the position of regional swine specialist at Lethbridge.

He will be involved in all aspects of swine production in the Lethbridge region and will co-ordinate the swine extension and pork industry branch programs as well as assist district agriculturists with the programs.

Mr. George comes from Warwickshire, England. After having spent two years in the army and two years in practical farming, he obtained his certificate in agriculture from the North of Scotland College of Agriculture. He obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Before coming to Canada in 1967, Mr. George was employed by British Oil and Cake Mills Ltd. where he worked with livestock and helped to establish a group of weaner producers who moved 85,000 weaners a year. His first job in Canada was with Maple Leaf Mills of Toronto. In 1970 he joined Knechtel Milling as a swine specialist in Hanover, Ontario, and three years later became general manager of the Western Hybrid Swine Co-operative, a 1,000 sow farrow-finish operation at Lenigan, Saskatchewan.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANAGER OF LENDING APPOINTED

The chairman of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, Lorne C. Ordze, has announced the promotion of Randy Niven to the position of manager of lending. He will be located in Camrose.

Mr. Niven was raised on a farm in the Camrose area and took a diploma at Olds College. He then went on to Montana State University, U.S.A., where he majored in agricultural economics. He joined the corporation in 1972 and after having held positions in Edmonton and Calgary, he moved to the head office in Camrose. As manager of lending, he will be responsible for training and supervising the Corporation's 50 field staff and for the delivery of all farm loan programs throughout Alberta.

Mr. Niven is involved in community activities, vice-president of the Rose City Curling Club and a director of the Camrose Gulf Club.

- 30 -

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ADC LOANS OFFICERS

Lorne Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the hiring of new loans officers for Lacombe, Two Hills and Peace River.

Sharon Barlund has been appointed loans officer at Lacombe. Raised on a farm in the Eckville area, she graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1977 and has been a credit advisor with the Farm Credit Corporation for the last three years.

Lewis Johnston has been appointed loans officer at Two Hills. He has his M.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta and has been farming in the Drumheller area for the last 10 years. Prior to that, he was involved in an agricultural research project in Tanzania.

Everett Olsen has been appointed loans officer at Peace River. He has farmed near Innisfail for the past four years, and, before that, he worked as credit advisor with the Farm Credit Corporation. He took that job after graduating from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture).

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO CLARESHOLM

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the transfer of Janice Williams to the position of district home economist at Claresholm. She previously held the same position at Hanna.

Ms. Williams will be providing residents in the Claresholm area with information, etc., in the areas of food and nutrition, clothing and textiles, home and energy management and consumerism.

She comes from Iron Springs, northeast of Lethbridge and attended the University of Alberta, graduating in 1977 with a B.Sc. (home economics). She took her district home economist training with Betty Birch at Stettler and was appointed district home economist at Hanna in 1978.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
AUG 27 1980
NATIONAL

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Farm Dugouts In The Peace River Region (Jubilee Series) 1
$12,700,000 For Alberta's Farmers 4
The Economics Of Producing And Marketing Greenhouse Crops 5
Ammonia Treatment Of Straw To Improve Its Feeding Value 7
New Weeds In Alberta 9
Weed Alert 11
4-H Ain't All Cows And Cookin' 12
Alberta Horticultural Crops Storage Task Force 14
High Demand For Agricultural Systems Graduates 15
Alberta Horticultural Research Center Field Day 16
Plowing Championships Awarded 17
Blanche Before Freezing 18
Fruit Leathers 19

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM DUGOUTS IN THE PEACE RIVER REGION

by Euclide J. Hebert

By 1940, the year of my appointment as district agriculturist at McLennan, the Peace River region was already noted for its livestock potential. The luxurious growth of native grasses, hay and green feed made it especially suited to dairying. Equally recognized, however, was a serious drawback. . . . . the lack of water!

This was the situation when, sometime before the mid-1940's, the provincial dairy commissioner was requested by dairy-minded farmers from McLennan west to Watino and surrounding areas to assess the possibility of expanding dairying. It was decided at that time that something had to be done on a large scale to solve the water problem. In areas like my own, where irrigation was practically unknown, nobody had much knowledge about the methods and machinery required for conserving water.

I remember after having held preliminary meetings in various areas and parishes of the district, a dozen delegates or so were chosen to attend a later decision-making meeting. When this meeting was held, more than 100 people turned up at my office from all parts of the district, each saying or implying that he was there to represent himself. So we had to hold our meeting outside on a grassy knoll behind the office.

The many suggestions made at that meeting boiled down to four possible courses of action: 1) the adoption of a co-operative plan; 2) the formation of a syndicate; 3) the hiring of a contractor and 4) the owner doing the work himself. The fourth alternative was eventually chosen.

After many more meetings, voluminous correspondence, trips to Edmonton and elsewhere, long discussions with my superiors in the department of agriculture (who supported my effort but gently reminded me that this was not part of our regular agricultural program

- (cont'd) -

Farm Dugouts In The Peace River Region (cont'd)

and that there was no government policy to warrant such an understanding), Mr. E. Emard, a farmer from Belloy, who had sold his farm, was authorized to dig dugouts in the district. He was also helped to get the required permits from the Wartime Prices and Trade Board to purchase the necessary machinery.

After many more letters, telegrams, reports to my director, R.M. Putnam, research and visits to Edmonton, etc.,. . . . and waiting. . . .we were advised one bright morning by the Allis Chalmers Company that we were to get a diesel crawler, equipped with a hydraulic grade-builder and a two-wheel hydraulic carry-all scraper, costing approximately $12,000.

The standard size of dugout that had been accepted in the district was 100 feet long, 50 feet wide and 12 feet deep with slopes of 1.5:1 on the sides and 2:1 at the ends. These dimensions necessitated the excavation of about 1100 cubic yards of earth, which cost between 12¢ and 15¢ per cubic yard. Although digging was not scheduled to begin until the following spring, 125 names had been submitted and accepted in the hope that this machine would be capable of excavating two dugouts a week.

The following information comes from subsequent Alberta Department of Agriculture annual reports: The excavation equipment purchased for dugout work last year (1944) operated throughout the season, and a number of excellent dugouts were made. The Peace River Farm Water Supply Assistance Policy was introduced in May (1945) to provide assistance to farmers in those sections of the Peace River region where it is very difficult to secure adequate water supplies. The basis of assistance was in the form of a subsidy of 5¢ per cubic yard of earth excavated in the construction of a dugout with maximum assistance payable to any one farm unit being limited to $100.

Applications for assistance were made through the district agriculturist who would help the farmer choose a suitable site for his dugout, if requested to do so. The farmer made his

Farm Dugouts In The Peace River Region (cont'd)

own excavation arrangements with a contractor, and the dugout was inspected and measured by the district agriculturist when it was completed. If it met the required specifications, a certificate, giving the size, etc. was forwarded to the provincial department of agriculture and the farmer received his subsidy.

The four district agriculturists in the Peace River region involved in the project reported that 720 dugouts were inspected in 1945 and 512 were inspected the following year. In the 1950's there were eight machines excavating dugouts compared with only one during the first few years of the project.

About the Author:

Euclide Hebert is an Alberta graduate, who served as district agriculturist in the Peace River region from 1940 to 1945. When he retired in Montreal in 1972, he had also served with Agriculture Canada's poultry division, consumer and corporate affairs and retail inspection of agricultural products branch.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

$12,700,000 FOR ALBERTA'S FARMERS

The Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation provided $12,700,000 in direct loans to Alberta's farmers during the month of May. This was a record level of lending and exceeds the previous record by over $5 million.

Of the direct lending, $8,300,000 went to beginning farmers. This is approximately three times higher than the previous record amount supplied to beginning farmers in any month, and represented 64 loans to individuals to allow them to establish viable farming operations. If compared to the past fiscal year (ended March 31, 1980) when a total of 277 loans were made to beginning farmers, it can be seen that the revised Beginning Farmer Program, announced April 1, 1980, will have a massive effect on the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation's lending. As a result of this direct lending, the corporation's outstanding direct loan portfolio now stands at $198,200,000 and represents some 4,600 accounts.

The operations of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation are financed through the issuing of debentures that are purchased by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. The corporation recently issued an additional $80 million in debentures, which will be used to finance this fiscal year's lending activity, expected to continue at a record level.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ECONOMICS OF PRODUCING AND MARKETING GREENHOUSE CROPS

Why has Alberta's flower and fresh vegetable production not kept pace with the demand?

The production economics branch of Alberta Agriculture undertook a comprehensive economic evaluation of the flower and vegetable sectors of the greenhouse industry in an attempt to answer this question. Those in charge of the study examined the 1978 investment level and production costs/returns for provincial greenhouses by size, crop and region. They also investigated problems related to production, transportation and other areas of concern.

They found that the major production costs are labor, material inputs and greenhouse fuel. The relative proportions of these costs were 35.6 per cent, 22.4 per cent and 7.5 per cent, respectively.

Total production costs of a typical greenhouse in 1978 were $155,012 or $5.09 per square foot. The estimated gross revenue was $181,256 or $5.95 per square foot. The study also showed that average costs and returns were much higher for greenhouses in north and north-central Alberta than they were those in the south and south-central areas of the province. Total production costs averaged $6.29 per square foot in the north compared with $4.06 per square foot in the south. However, greenhouses in northern areas recorded higher returns over cash costs ($2.71 per square foot) than those in southern areas. The average return over cash costs for the study sample was $2.11 per square foot.

Greenhouses in both the north and the south had a positive return to management,but those in the north were four times as profitable as those in the south. The return to management in the north was $1.53 per square foot cornpared with $0.39 per square foot in the south.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

The Economics Of Producing And Marketing Greenhouse Crops (cont'd)

A complete report on the study is contained in a publication entitled "The Economics of Production and Marketing of Greenhouses Crops in Alberta". It is the third in a series of reports published by the production economics branch. The other two are called "Greenhouse Tax Structure in Alberta", published in March, 1979 and "Handling and Transportation of Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables in Alberta", published in March, 1980.

The study reported in "The Economics of Production and Marketing of Greenhouse Crops in Alberta" is being repeated for the 1979 crop, and a related study of production costs and returns for potatoes and field vegetables is in the process of being analyzed. It should be released sometime this fall.

Copies of "Greenhouse Tax Structure in Alberta", "Handling and Transportation of Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables in Alberta" and "The Economics of Production and Marketing of Greenhouse Crops in Alberta" can be obtained from the Print Media Branch, Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMMONIA TREATMENT OF STRAW TO IMPROVE ITS FEEDING VALUE

by R.D. Weisenburger, P.Ag.
Head, Animal Nutrition Section, Alberta Agriculture

In a year such as this when feed supplies may be limiting and feed costs are high the treatment of straw with anhydrous ammonia may provide an alternative source of feed.

For the past four or five years a group of researchers in Saskatchewan have been evaluating the use of anhydrous liquid ammonia as a treatment to improve the feeding value of straw and other poor-quality forages. The method of treatment involves adding specific amounts of anhydrous ammonia to baled straw which has been covered with plastic sheeting in such a manner as to make a gas-tight enclosure. After the straw has been enclosed for a minimum of several weeks, the plastic cover is carefully removed and the excess ammonia is allowed to evaporate. The advantage of this treatment is that it can be done on the farm. The cost of the plastic and anhydrous ammonia needed for the treatment will be in the range of $20 per ton of straw treated.

Although the treatment of straw with anhydrous ammonia can increase the crude protein content, the digestible energy content and the intake of straw, work done at the University of Saskatchewan shows that cereal straws do not respond uniformly to treatment with anhydrous ammonia. In the Saskatchewan trials wheat straw showed the greatest response to ammoniation. It was followed by oat straw and then barley straw. In these trials, when steers received one per cent of their body weight as concentrate and straw on a free-choice basis, the intake of wheat, oat and barley straws were increased by 30, 18 and 9 per cent, respectively. At the same time the dry matter digestibility increased by 11, 5 and 4 per cent respectively for wheat, oat and barley straw-based rations. The steers fed untreated straw consumed nearly 20 per cent less wheat straw than either oat or barley straw. However, when fed treated straw,

- (cont'd) -

the steers consumed about equal amounts of wheat and barley straw, but they consumed about 5 per cent more oat straw than either wheat or barley.

In addition, ammonia increases the crude protein content of the treated straw to about a 7 per cent crude protein level. This would reduce the amount of supplemental protein needed to meet the protein needs of a wintering beef cow that is being fed a straw-based ration.

Normally, wintering beef cows will consume 12 to 14 pounds of wheat straw per head per day. They will consume from 16 to 18 pounds of either barley or oat straw per cow per day. Based on the Saskatchewan information, voluntary consumption could be increased to 16 or 17 pounds per cow per day by treating wheat straw with ammonia. The intake of oat straw could be increased to about 20 pounds per cow per day, and the intake of barley straw should be 18 or 19 pounds per cow per day.

This information indicates that if you are considering ammoniating straw, you can expect to obtain the biggest response from treating wheat straw. Because untreated barley or oat straw can already be used in large amounts in the rations of wintering cows, there is less advantage in treating them.

If you plan to treat straw with ammonia this fall, start making preparations soon because you will need special attachments to inject the ammonia into the straw. The straw to be treated should be baled and stacked as soon as possible after combining. The nutritive value of straw and the response of straw to ammoniation are both reduced if the straw is rained on or if it dries out too much before it is baled.

- 30 -

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW WEEDS IN ALBERTA

Yellow hemp nettle, nodding thistle and corn gromwell are all new weeds that have been found in Alberta.

Yellow hemp nettle was found last year in a triangular area between Fort Saskatchewan, Edmonton and Onoway. The plant is somewhat larger than the common hemp nettle and can be easily identified by its large yellow flowers. However, the two species are impossible to distinguish in immature plants.

According to Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Station at Brooks, there are indications that this new weed is somewhat more difficult to kill than the common hemp nettle.

Nodding thistle was first identified in the Calgary region in 1978. In Saskatchewan it is well established along roadsides, in gravel pits and in pastures from Moose Jaw to Saskatoon. It is a biennial that reproduces only by seed, and it is on the restricted list under the new Weed Act. This means that it must be eradicated.

Corn gromwell was identified in winter wheat fields near Pincher Creek in 1978. It is a biennial that is spread by seeds. Dr. Howard says that information from the United States indicates that it does not usually persist under cultivation, but it is occasionally troublesome in winter wheat and fall rye.

Spotted and diffuse knapweed, henbit, stork's bill and scentless chamomile are weeds that could cause more problems in the 1980's than has been the case in the past.

Knapweeds were probably introduced into Canada and the United States before 1930 in shipments of alfalfa from the Balkans, Russia and Asia Minor. Diffuse knapweed is the worst rangeland weed in British Columbia and is followed closely by spotted knapweed.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

New Weeds In Alberta (cont'd)

Animals will not feed on knapweed, nor are there any native insects or diseases that will control it. While biological control is being investigated, it may not prove practical for another 10 or 20 years.

Stork's bill was first found in the early 1970's and is spreading. Scentless chamomile is common along roadsides in the Leduc area. Henbit is occurring in scattered areas from southern Alberta to the Peace River region.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED ALERT

Do you participate in Weed Alert? Do you know what Weed Alert is?

Weed Alert is a program, sponsored by the federal government and Alberta Agriculture, which is designed to stop new weeds from becoming established and to locate minor weed species so that they can be prevented from spreading from one area to another.

Few people realize that very few native plants cause serious weed problems. The problems are nearly always caused by weeds that have been imported, and one or two new species are identified every year. Once a new weed gains a foothold, eradication and even containment is very difficult, if not impossible.

Weed Alert can only work if everybody keeps his or her eyes open for new weeds and reports them immediately. The potential of new weeds can then be evaluated, and the most serious can be eradicated before they become established.

In the past the emphasis of Weed Alert has been on accumulating data from country and district offices. Now the focus is on the location of newly introduced weeds and the spread of existing minor species.

The Weed Alert authorities know that there are several species of weeds in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia that are causing problems and that are spreading. They include red bartsia, nodding thistle, showy milkweed, bladder campion and wild radish.

Weed Alert requires only a few minutes of your time to inform the authorities of the presence of a new weed species. They are also interested in knowing whether existing weeds are spreading. So if you see a new weed or believe that a minor species is spreading, contact your district agriculturist or agriculture fieldman. If he cannot identify a new weed, he will forward the specimen to a laboratory for identification. After it has been identified, its name and the location where it was found will be sent to the federal research station at Lacombe where the information will be put into a computer and stored for future reference.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H AIN'T ALL COWS AND COOKIN'

The seams at Olds College will be bursting from August 11 - 13 with 300 4-H members and leaders from across the province attending the provincial 4-H "Express"-ions and "Horse Sense" programs.

"Express"-ions was created to give the members who are involved in the less popular project areas an opportunity to participate in a provincial activity. Small engines, canine, outdoorsman, sheep, clothing, crafts and photography are just a few of the clubs represented. The delegates will participate in project related seminars, display and record book competitions, a bake-off, demonstrations and lots of recreational activities.

Leaders who are attending will help in a variety of ways. Some will become judges of projects, while others will act as resource people. Four of the leaders will be planning recreational activities for the entire group.

The highlight for the program will be a 4-H fashion show on the evening of August 12th. It will be presented by all the clothing club members in cooperation with the Simplicity — Style Pattern Company, Toronto. Individual fashions were created by each girl in the past year while they were involved in their local clubs.

The "Horse Sense" Program will be in progress at the same time as "Express"-ions. It was designed for all light horse clubs across the province to increase their knowledge of judging, demonstrating and project skills. In addition to judging contests and clinics, the members will have a chance to demonstrate their knowledge of horses in an event called "The Horse Bowl". This is a quiz contest in which the members are asked various questions on their project. Two winners from the competitions will be chosen to represent Alberta at the annual Western Provinces 4-H Judging Contest and Seminar at Agribition in Regina, Saskatchewan.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

4-H Ain't All Cows And Cookin' (cont'd)

This is the first year that "Express"-ions and the Horse Sense Program have been combined at Olds. Plans call for a number of 4-H project programs to eventually be combined into one program.

- 30 -

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL CROPS STORAGE TASK FORCE

The need for proper storage facilities to lengthen the marketing season for Alberta grown horticultural products is emphasized in a recently released Alberta Horticultural Crops Storage Task Force Report.

Data gathered over the past winter indicate that much of the current storage capacity used in the vegetable and potato industry is in need of replacement or modernization. These industries will be required to make significant capital investments in storage facilities if they are to maintain their present status or to expand in any way. At current construction costs an investment of $18 to $20 million is needed.

The report recommends a general replacement of out-of-date root cellar capacity, an expansion of refrigerated potato storage space to provide Alberta processors and consumers with local potatoes for 12 months of the year. An increase in refrigerated storage capacity will also provide more Alberta grown vegetables for the fresh market.

The provision of better storage management is also recommended in the report as a means of improving the quality of available produce out of storage. The level of storage management could be increased significantly by the construction of centralized storage facilities.

Further Task Force Report details are available from Tom Krahn, Task Force Leader, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, TOJ OJO.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS GRADUATES

Lakeland College in Vermilion needs more students to meet the high demand for agricultural systems graduates in Western Canada.

The college offers the only Agricultural Systems Program in Western Canada. Similar programs are being offered in Kempville, Ontario, and Truro, Nova Scotia.

The Lakeland College program is a two-year program that emphasizes the practical side of agricultural systems. The five main courses include materials handling equipment; electricity and wiring; electric motors and control; system planning and system design.

The materials handling equipment course covers such things as augers, bucket elevators, pumps, seed cleaning equipment and grinding.

The electricity and wiring course covers basic electricity and wiring.

The electric motors and control course covers basic automatic systems. These are studied and built by the students.

The system planning course covers the overall layout of facilities used in agricultural production. Examples of these systems would be those used in grain handling, beef production and hog production.

The systems design course involves a detailed design of the agricultural production systems mentioned above. The students design all the electrical, heating and lighting systems used in a livestock production facility.

The Agricultural Systems Program also has a graduate travelling seminar, under which students that will be graduating visit materials handling facilities and manufacturing plants across North America.

The program consists of four semesters and the tuition per semester is $137.50. Accomodation at the college for those who need it costs $260 per semester.

Further information and application forms can be obtained by anyone in any province from the Registrar, Lakeland College, Vermilion Campus, Alberta, T0B 4M0.

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER FIELD DAY

Prairie fruit will be featured at the 18th annual Alberta Horticultural Research Center Field Day on August 29, 1980. The center is located 5 km east of Brooks on Highway No.1.

Many aspects of prairie fruit will be emphasized in special displays and demonstrations at the field day. Saskatoons, apples, strawberries and raspberries are just a few of the species you will be able to discuss, and Alberta Agriculture home economists and food processing specialists will provide information on recipes and processing techniques.

The field day will also include numerous other displays and demonstrations. A pruning clinic will demonstrate pruning techniques for trees and shrubs, while a plant pest clinic will provide information on plant diseases and insect problems. There will also be a flower arranging demonstration, which has been tremendously popular in the past, and a greenhouse hydroponics demonstration. In addition, there will be research plot tours and produce displays.

Fresh corn-on-the-cob will be served to all visitors at lunch time and refreshments will be available throughout the day.

The Field Day starts at 9 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLOWING CHAMPIONSHIPS AWARDED

The senior champions of the Provincial Plowing Match, held in Wanham recently, are Doug Marr and his brother, Wally Marr. They will represent Alberta at the Canadian Plowing Match which will be held in British Columbia in the spring of 1981.

Roger Sather won the junior championship. There were six competitors in this event which was new this year. Roger will compete in the junior plowing match in Montreal this fall.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLANCHE BEFORE FREEZING

We have always been told that it is necessary to blanche vegetables before we freeze them. This is done to inactivate the enzymes that would otherwise cause undesirable changes in color, flavor and texture of the vegetable.

To many people it is not worth the effort, and they have had good luck not blanching. However, tests done by Agriculture Canada, indicate that blanching is important for retaining vitamins, particularly if the vegetable is to be stored for more than three months. One study showed, for example, that unblanched samples of green beans had a much greater loss of vitamin C than the blanched samples.

For accurate blanching times, ask your district home economist for "Preserve by Freezing".

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

July 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRUIT LEATHERS

by Debbie Brekke
Alberta Agriculture's home economist at Stettler

Drying is an old method of preserving food that is becoming popular again.

Fruit leather is one type of drying that is fun. The product is a chewy, pliable, dried fruit leather that is great for snacks. Here is how you make it. Allow about 2 cups of cooked or blended fruit, and sugar to taste, for each batch. It is usually not necessary to add any sugar unless the fruit is really tart. The taste and the sweetness concentrates as the fruit dries.

Place the fruit in a blender until it is smooth and about the consistency of fine applesauce. You may need to add water or juice if the mixture is too stiff. If it is really runny, strain some juice off.

Line a jelly roll pan or cookie sheet with plastic wrap or butter it really well. Spread the fruit evenly to between 1/8 and 1/4 inch of thickness.

Set your oven to its lowest setting or about 140° F and place the pan in the oven, near the top, for several hours.

Drying time will vary, depending on the fruit but it will probably take five to six hours.

Cool the fruit and roll in up in saran for storing. To serve as a snack, cut pieces off with a pair of scissors.

Frozen or canned fruit works just as well as fresh fruit for leather. Try a combination like rhubarb and raspberry — it is good!

For more information, ask your district home economist for the publication entitled "Drying Fruits and Vegetables".

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

AGRI-NEWS

AL-1.691

CANADIANA
AUG 27 1980
NATIONAL LIBRARY / BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE
CANADA

August 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Sixty Years Of Extension (Jubilee Series) 1
Federal-Provincial Assistance For Meat Processing Operation 3
Solar Greenhouses 4
Wheat Outlook 6
Hog Outlook 7
Rapeseed Outlook 8
Barley Outlook 9
Freight Rates and Grain Transportation 10
The Use Of Forage To Prevent The Spread Of Saline Soils 12
Effect Of Restricted Feeding and Energy Content Of Ration Broiler Breeding Chickens . 14
Volcanic Ash Not Harmful To Livestock 16
University Of Alberta Bedding Plant Trials 17
Freezer Jam 18

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIXTY YEARS OF EXTENSION

by Glen Werner
Senior District Agriculturist, Stettler

Have you ever wondered what is meant by the word "extension"? Also, why the district agriculturist office is referred to as the extension office? The reason lies partly in history.

In the early 1900's, Western Canada was opening up for settlement and development. The railroad brought people and communication, which led to numerous settlement people and towns. Since many of the rural people were Easterners or immigrants who were seeking a new way of life, they were often not well versed in the skills of farming in Western Canada.

It was to assist this development and to reduce or prevent the number of settlers who failed that the Province of Alberta established the district agriculturist service. Men who had agricultural experience and training were selected to serve large areas of the province. They worked with both the school children and their parents, and their main emphasis was on livestock and crop production.

The close relationship these men had with the people and to some extent with the government led in part to the development of the concept of extension. The district agriculturist was an extension of the provincial government that led directly to the people — a sort of middleman. Likewise, he was an extension of the local people to the government. He could, and still does, pass on the concerns of the local people to the appropriate level of government — again, a sort of middleman.

The increase of research and technology in the past 50 years has added an additional dimension to the role of the district agriculturist. It is the extension of new and applicable research and technology to the local area and its people. The district agriculturist is

- (cont'd) -

Sixty Years Of Extension (cont'd)

now a middleman for this rapidly expanding field of endeavor as well.

So in the past 60 years there have been many changes. People, methods and technology have changed as have the roles of government and industry. However, the original intent and purpose of the district agriculturist, and, more recently, the extension division remains the same — helping the rural people of Alberta to help obtain a livelihood and a better way of life.

District agriculturists are the vehicles or extension of government, research and technology to the rural people, and, conversely, the extension or vehicle of the local people to the government. This was our role 60 years ago and it still is the role of the district agriculturist today.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

August 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEAT PROCESSING OPERATION

A former manager of an IGA food store in Whitecourt, Ron Doi, will receive $14,277 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement to establish a meat processing department when he opens his own IGA store in Spirit River.

Mr. Doi's acceptance of the $14,277 was announced by Senator Bud Olson, federal minister of state for economic development and Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture. The meat department in the new store, which will be run by Mr. Doi and his wife, will cost an estimated $47,591 and is expected to employ three people.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

hone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

August 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOLAR GREENHOUSES

by C. Schaupmeyer
Alberta Horticultural Research Centre, Brooks, Alberta

Solar greenhouses can generally be grouped into active and passive categories. Active greenhouses use solar collectors that are external to the greenhouse, and store solar heat in mass structures either inside or outside it. Active systems also imply the use of pumps and fans to transfer the heat storing fluids. Passive greenhouses act as heat collectors and the heat is stored in mass structures (usually rock, concrete or water) inside the greenhouse.

Since the concept of a solar greenhouse is appealing, many people are saying "What are we waiting for? There's so much free heat!" However, this is not so. The initial energy may be free but collecting, storing and converting it into a form we can use is not free. It is very expensive. Solar greenhouses are far less cost-effective than those heated with fossil fuels and will likely be so for some time to come.

Active greenhouses are not cost-effective due to the high cost of collectors (up to $\$75/ft^2$ of collector) and the high cost of storing the heat. Another problem is the area of collector that is required. Researchers at Vineland, Ontario, are using a very inexpensive solar collector, but, based on their findings, they feel that they need 10 acres of collector for every acre of greenhouse — and 20 to 30 acres of land for the collectors! Passive houses have some problems too. They are expensive to build; they have a low amount of usable growing area (volume) relative to their size; they have to be long and narrow and they are not labor efficient in large operations.

A common problem with solar heated greenhouses is that 75 per cent of our heat requirements occur from November through February when light conditions are usually quite poor.

- (cont'd) -

Solar Greenhouses (cont'd)

As a general conclusion, we do not feel that solar greenhouses are commercially feasible. A good idea, but ideology doesn't pay the banker.

However, a passive solar greenhouse would be practical for someone who wants to build a non-commercial greenhouse. A passive greenhouse could be operated from March to November with little back-up heating, but it would be fairly expensive to build. On the other hand, our North American lifestyle has a lot of expensive leisure activities and a greenhouse could be cheaper than some other forms of recreation.

Please contact me for more information on either an active or passive greenhouse at Bag Service 200, Brooks, TOJ OJO.

- 30 -

August 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT OUTLOOK

World wheat prices are expected to be similar to those of last year.

"It appears on the basis of current conditions that 1980-81 world wheat production and utilization will be fairly well balanced," says Les Lyster of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch. "The carryover at the end of the 1980-81 crop year will probably be similar to that recorded at the end of the 1979-80 crop year."

Durum prices are expected to maintain a substantial premium over red spring wheat in the coming months. Total durum supplies in Canada, the United States and Argentina, the three main exporting countries, will probably be about 2 million tonnes lower in the 1980-81 crop year than they were in 1979-80. Hence, the durum supply/demand balance is expected to remain relatively tight during the 1980-81 crop year.

Although Canada's total wheat acreage is 8 per cent above the 1979 acreage, this acreage will not offset the anticipated reduction in yields that are forecast for the Eastern Prairies. According to Mr. Lyster, current conditions indicate that the total 1980 Canadian wheat crop will be between 14 and 15 million tonnes. Alberta's wheat production is expected to account for nearly a third of this year's Canadian wheat crop.

Canada's wheat exports during the 1980-81 crop year are expected to decline somewhat from the level achieved during the 1979-80 crop year because of lower supplies.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG OUTLOOK

Hogs indexing 100 are expected to average in the low to mid $50 per hundredweight range during the second half of this year, and to rise to the $60 level early in 1981.

Although hog producers can expect higher prices during the new year, Bill Gray, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, warns that net returns will continue to be pressured by high input costs. He says drought conditions in Saskatchewan and Manitoba have basically negated any positive results that could have been expected from the 25 per cent increase in this year's barley crop.

Continued low beef supplies, lower broiler and turkey production prospects and anticipated lower pork production throughout North America all suggest that hog prices could recover from this year's low and reach the $60 per hundredweight level or higher. However, Mr. Gray points out that the outlook for feed costs during 1980-81 is very uncertain at this time.

The feed situation in the United States is quite volatile,and yields have the potential of varying significantly from current forecasts. "Actual yields and resulting prices" Mr. Gray says, "are expected to be the main factor influencing the rate of liquidation of hogs and subsequent hog prices over the next 18 months."

Federally and provincially inspected hog slaughter in Canada during the second quarter of 1980 increased by about 24 per cent from the same period a year ago, which, in turn was up by 18 per cent from the 1978 level. Canadian output averaged 262,000 head per week, which represents a marginal increase over the level recorded in the first quarter of 1980. Hog slaughter in the United States was up by 14 per cent from the 1979 level.

The increased slaughter throughout North American placed pressure on prices which resulted in 100 index hogs averaging 45.02 per hundredweight in Edmonton — a decline of $19.98 from the same period in 1979.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

August 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED OUTLOOK

Although the odds at the present time are in favor of stronger rapeseed prices in the months ahead, prices in the third quarter will be extremely sensitive to weather related changes in American soybean crop prospects.

Les Lyster, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says a significant improvement in world oilseed production prospects, especially U.S. soyabeans, could cause rapeseed futures to decline by roughly $20 per tonne from their current level. The lower Canadian rapeseed supplies in 1980-81 can be expected to narrow the rapeseed basis. At this time the potential for higher street prices in the coming months appears to be stronger than the risk of weaker prices.

The 1980 Canadian rapeseed crop is projected to be marginally below 2 million tonnes, or 45 per cent smaller than the 1979 crop. Alberta production is expected to account for slightly more than half of the 1980 Prairie rapeseed crop.

The carryover of Canadian rapeseed on July 31, 1981 is expected to be reduced considerably lower than the 1979-80 level.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

August 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARLEY OUTLOOK

Alberta barley prices are expected to rise $10 to $15 per tonne from their current levels during the next quarter of this year. They could continue to rise slowly into next winter as the market rations available supplies, depending upon the final outcome of the 1980 barley crop and the level of exports attempted by the Canadian Wheat Board.

Les Lyster, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, reports that the Canadian supply/demand balance for barley is extremely tight at the present time, and that the low barley stock situation this summer has been further aggravated by the drought in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Canadian farmers planted approximately 25 per cent more acres of barley this year than last year, but yield prospects are the important factor at this time. Alberta's barley yield is expected to be above normal, while the Saskatchewan and Manitoba yields will be reduced. This year's barley crop, however, is expected to somewhat above the rather low 1979 crop.

"Canadian barley exports are predicted to decline dramatically as a result of greatly reduced supplies," Mr. Lyster says. "And it is anticipated that the Canadian supply/demand balance for barley will remain fairly tight until the 1981 harvest."

The one major uncertainty on the international scene is U.S. corn production prospects. A portion of the American corn belt has suffered from extremely hot, dry conditions, and corn prices will be extremely sensitive to weather conditions in the coming weeks.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREIGHT RATES AND GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

Rail freight rates, which went up in the first quarter of this year, on agricultural implements, chemicals, livestock, meats, grains and other agricultural commodities started increasing again on August 1 by 2 to 4 per cent.

According to Nabi Chaudhary of Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch, the railway companies feel that previous rate increases were not enough to cover costs.

Export rail rates on alfalfa pellets and other products were increased by 8 per cent on June 1 and will be increased by a further 4 per cent on November 1, 1980. Export and domestic rates on fertilizer and fertilizer materials were increased by 12 per cent on July 1. Westbound truck rates were increased by about 6 per cent at the beginning of July but eastbound rates were not changed.

Alberta Orders Grain Hopper Cars

The Alberta government has awarded a $40.7 million contract to the National Steel Car Company Ltd. of Hamilton to build 800 grain hopper cars which are expected to be delivered in March 1981.

The Alberta government will also buy 200 cars from the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) to further increase Western grain rail handling capacity. They too should be in service in early 1981.

Canadian Wheat Board Leases Hopper Cars

The CWB has ordered 1,250 hopper cars, 350 of which were being built before a strike stopped work at the Nova Scotia plant. Negotiations on another 750 are underway, and it is expected that all 2,000 will be in service by next spring. The lease of these cars by the CWB is for 25 years, and the lease states that the cars must be used in Canada only during this period. Some details remain to be settled, but it is understood that the government can

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Freight Rates And Grain Transportation (cont'd)

buy the cars under certain conditions either before or at the time that the lease expires.

Grain Storage at Churchill

The CWB has announced that this year's grain export program through the port of Churchill will be greatly reduced because of a severe shortage of grain at elevators on CN lines. In fact, the export program could be cancelled altogether unless there is an immediate increase in grain deliveries to these elevators.

The CWB has authorized open delivery quotas for utility and hard red spring wheat, oats and barley in all CN shipping blocks across Western Canada to increase grain deliveries to country elevators on CN lines. The board has also rescinded the regulation which limits deliveries to the quota levels in effect at primary elevator points, and is implementing a trucking program to move grain from country elevators served by the CP to points on CN lines. All this is being done to speed up the shipment of grain to the port at Churchill.

Record Grain Loading at Prince Rupert

Grain handlers at Prince Rupert broke the port's annual grain loading record with six weeks still remaining in the shipping season. By June 18 of this year, the terminal had handled 1,013,839 tonnes of grain compared with the previous record of 990,200 tonnes, established in the 1978-79 crop year.

- 30 -

August 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE USE OF FORAGE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF SALINE SOILS

The best way to control dryland salinity is to plant it to forage crops because they have deep roots and a high moisture consumption, says A.E. Sherman, head of forage crops with Alberta Agriculture.

He explains that areas of salinity and seepage, which are developing rapidly on some of Alberta's non-irrigated crop land, are caused by excess moisture passing through the soil to a shallow, less permeable layer. It then moves laterally down-slope picking up salts as it goes. When it approaches the soil surface a discharge area is formed, and the water moves to the soil surface by capillary action. When it evaporates, it leaves an accumulation of salts.

If deep-rooted forage crops are sown between the recharge and the discharge areas, they will help considerably to use up the excess water that is flowing down hill, and, at the same time, prevent the movement of salts to the discharge area.

Mr. Sherman recommends the following forage crops because they absorb water well and because they can tolerate salts.

- Alfalfa — a long-lived, winter-hardy legume that has a deep root system that will help stop the flow of moisture and salts to a discharge area.
- Sweet clover — a deep-rooted, biennial and the most salt tolerant of the legumes.
- Sainfoin — a deep-rooted, non-bloating legume that does well in the more sandy loam soils of southern Alberta.
- Prarieland Altai — a deep-rooted, long-lived perennial wild ryegrass that does an excellent job of using excess water. It is also quite salt tolerant.
- Tall wheatgrass — probably the most salt-tolerant forage crop available, is long-lived, easily established and can stand up to three weeks of flooding.
- Slender wheatgrass — approaches tall wheatgrass in salt tolerance but is more

- (cont'd) -

The Use of Forage To Prevent The Spread Of Saline Soils (cont'd)

palatable to cattle than tall wheatgrass. However, because it is not as deep-rooted as tall wheatgrass, it is not as effective in using water that is moving to a discharge area. It can stand flooding for four to five weeks.

The above forages are also recommended for seeding areas that have already become saline, providing that the salts have not accumulated beyond plant tolerance. Where the salt accumulation is high, draining or flooding the soil with water may be the answer. Since the incorporation of organic matter like manure increases the water holding capacity of soil, it will dilute the salt concentration.

- 30 -

August 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EFFECT OF RESTRICTED FEEDING AND ENERGY CONTENT OF RATION ON BROILER BREEDING CHICKENS

Alberta Agriculture's poultry branch, in co-operation with the University of Alberta's poultry division, is conducting experiments at the provincial poultry plant at Oliver on broiler breeding chickens, turkey broilers and laying hens.

Two experiments, conducted over the last two years, were designed to evaluate the effects of restricted feeding and energy content of rations on the performance of broiler breeding chickens. Ken Darlington and George Milne of Alberta Agriculture worked with Alex Robblee and Don Clandinin of the University of Alberta in these experiments. Hubbard and Shaver, two strains of broiler breeding stock used in Canada, were reared on a restricted feeding regime known as the "skip-a-day program". It is advocated by the companies that supply this breeding stock.

When the chickens commenced to lay at 26 weeks of age, they were divided into four comparable groups and fed either a high energy corn based breeding ration or a lower energy wheat based breeding ration. Each ration was fed either on a free-choice or on a restricted basis. The experiment was terminated when the hens had been fed the breeding ration for 36 weeks.

The results indicate that restricting feed intake during the laying period lowered the mortality rate compared with that in the groups fed on a free-choice basis. The hens on a restricted ration consumed 18 per cent less feed compared with the birds on full feed, and their final body weight was lower than that of the groups fed on a free-choice basis.

The rate of production of both strains of broiler breeding hens, calculated on a per hen-day basis, was not affected by the restriction of feed, the energy level of the ration or the year in which the experiments were conducted. Restricted feeding of either the higher

- (cont'd) -

Effect Of Restricted Feeding And Energy Content of Ration On Broiler Breeding Chickens (cont'd)

energy corn ration or the lower energy wheat ration resulted in considerably less feed being required to produce one dozen hatching eggs than was the case when the ration was fed free-choice. Although some variability was noted in hatchability of the fertile eggs and in egg size between the years in which the experiments were conducted, the differences did not seem to be related to the treatments used.

The results of the experiments on which the above data is based have been published in a scientific paper in the "Canadian Journal of Animal Science", Vol. 59 pp. 539-544, 1979.

- 30 -

August 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLCANIC ASH NOT HARMFUL TO LIVESTOCK

The amount of volcanic ash that has fallen on southern Alberta since the last erruption of Mount St. Helens in the northwestern United States is not likely to harm livestock, according to Dr. Terry Carruthers, a veterinarian and animal scientist at the federal research station at Lethbridge. However, he says that if the fallout continued for several weeks breathing in the ash could aggravate respiratory problems.

Rains, irrigation sprinklers and wind will remove most of the ash from garden vegetables and crops and the ash will probably be shaken off during the handling process of feed that is being put up for next winter.

Research studies carried out in Australia apparently indicate that some cattle in that country ingest as much as 800 pounds of road dust per head per year without showing any ill effects.

A detailed analysis of the volcanic ash from the May erruption of Mount St. Helens shows that 65 to 70 per cent of it is made up of silica, which is an inert mineral. Among the other elements were 15 per cent oxides of aluminium and four per cent each of calcium and iron.

Places like Japan, Hawaii and part of Oregon in the United States grow cereal crops and forage crops on soils made up mostly of volcanic ash deposits. However, a heavy fallout of volcanic ash can be harmful to machinery, especially to internal combustion engines. It can also be harmful to people who are sensitive to respiratory irritants.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

August 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA BEDDING PLANT TRIALS

Bedding plant growers, bedding plant distributors and all flower lovers are invited to view the bedding plant trials at the University of Alberta's Parkland Farm on Saturday, August 9, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, August 10, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Those who attend this event will have an opportunity to see 220 cultivars (varieties) of flowering bedding plants, including 12 different genera or kinds that do well in the central Alberta area. Recent All America Selections are included and there will be more than 40 seed geranium cultivars in the trials.

All cultivars will be labelled and personnel will be on hand to answer questions.

The university's Parkland Farm is located southwest of the 72 Avenue and 114 Street traffic circle in Edmonton.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

August 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREEZER JAM

Freezer jam is becoming more popular than jellies because it is easy to make and because there is more leeway in the consistency of jam than there is in the consistency of jelly. Because freezer jam is made to be stored in the freezer, and is, therefore, not cooked, the fresh flavor of the berries and fruit is more pronounced than is the case with jellies.

Debbie Brekke, district home economist at Stettler, says the general handling of freezer jams differs from that of conventional jams in several ways. For one thing, they must be stored in the freezer to prevent spoilage because they have not been sterilized through boiling. However, freshly made or thawed jam will keep well for up to three weeks in a refrigerator.

A second difference in the handling of freezer jam compared with conventional jam is that pectin must be added, and it must be added after the sugar, regardless of whether it is in the liquid or powdered form. Pectin has to be added because the natural pectin in the fruit is not activated by boiling.

Thirdly, freezer jam must be put into sterilized freezer-proof jars, and a space must be left at the top of the jar to allow for expansion. The jars must be sealed with sterilized tight-fitting lids; not paraffin.

When the jars have been filled and capped, they must be allowed to stand at room temperature until the jam has set, which could take up to 48 hours, but most freezer jam will set in 24 hours. If the jam is not allowed to set at room temperature before it is put into the freezer, it will not set, and it will not set if the recommended amount of sugar is reduced. The full amount of sugar must be added to freezer jam if it is to set.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

AGRICULTURE
SEP 08 1980

August 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

A District Agriculturist's Early Experiences (Jubilee Series) 1
Alberta Firms Receive Nutritive Processing Assistance 4
Alberta Livestock Fair Assistance Policy Revised 5
Sugar Outlook 7
Cattle Outlook 9
Forage Outlook 11
Processed Alfalfa Outlook 12
Honey Outlook 13
International Marketing Appointment 14
District Home Economist Appointed To Hanna 15

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

August 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST'S EARLY EXPERIENCES

by Aubrey Sherman

I joined the Alberta Department of Agriculture's extension service in the summer of 1954, after a three-year stint in North Dakota teaching Vocational Agriculture On-The-Farm-Training.

My first stop was at Stettler for DA training under Bob Price. The timing was perfect for Bob as all the 4-H field crops had to be judged. As the job was temporary in Stettler, and living accommocation was scarce, I slept in the judge's chambers behind the DA office in the old court house. Since the local RCMP had their police cells directly above the judge's room, I obtained an education listening to big-booted cops taking either prisoners or their girl friends up to the jug. After getting acquainted with the police, I had the opportunity to go on night patrol, which was an education in itself. Although there were serious situations, the majority of the nights were routine — i.e. checking doors and alleys and making nightly calls on lovers' lane!

When my training period was finished, I moved to a permanent position at Hanna in August, 1956. This was the year of the big rabies scare in Alberta, and a province-wide project was initiated to control coyotes, wolves and skunks. Ranchers in the special areas were concerned about the large population of coyotes.

Joe Gurba, pest control officer with the Alberta Department of Agriculture, and I organized a large 1080 poison program to control coyotes. Eighteen horses were used for bait and six to eight baits were prepared per horse. One bait per township was distributed. This was more of an eradication program than the control of the coyote population. At the same time this program was in force, the province was making a big drive to keep rats out of Alberta. Since coyotes and skunks are a great deterrant to the movement of rats, the two

- (cont'd) -

A District Agriculturist's Early Experiences (cont'd)

programs seemed to be in conflict. The 1080 bait-making program finished in November 1956, with a big blizzard covering the area. The last horse prepared for bait at the Ringdall Ranch was butchered in -20° F weather, with a 30 to 40 mph wind! I crawled inside the horse to keep warm, while Joe Gurba, who was inoculating the meat, had to suffer in silence.

The eastern part of the province never saw temperatures above 32° F for the next six months. Cattle feed was short, and many emergency programs were initiated to get feed into position for snowbound ranchers.

The following spring 4-H cattle sales took up a considerable amount of the DA's time. This was also the time when the special areas realized that much of the rangeland, which consisted of old farmsteads, needed rejuvenation. It took 15 years to actually get the program into action.

The following year, 1958, I moved to Lethbridge where I replaced Peter Jamieson as DA. Peter had been transferred to Fairview to take the position of principal of the agriculture college. This was the era of the farm management thrust, and DA's were given a training session at Banff to orientate them towards the management concept.

Lethbridge represented a completely new concept in extension work. The M.D. of Lethbridge had a concentrated irrigation farming complex. Special crops, sugar beets and potatoes were the main concern. Livestock feeding was developed to use some of the by-products, and areas with different ethnic backgrounds developed their special rotations for the irrigation land.

One project I remember well was the potato 15-ton club. A group of seed potato growers were raising seven to eight tons of potatoes on irrigated land when a program was developed to increase this production. Many farmers reached or surpassed the 15-ton mark in one year.

- (cont'd) -

A District Agriculturist's Early Experiences (cont'd)

Weeds were a big problem in the irrigated areas as well as in the County of Warner. With much work and organization, agricultural service boards were formed in both the M.D. of Lethbridge and the County of Warner. We then had a vehicle to start extensive weed and warble control programs and other regulatory projects to ensure a more stable agricultural future. The enthusiasm of the first two agriculture service board fieldmen enabled the two areas to develop good solid programs. Bernie Butterwick started in the M.D. of Lethbridge and Wayne Nickleson in the County of Warner. Bernie is now secretary for the Western Stock Growers Association and Wayne is deceased.

Our annual agriculture seminar and seed show was the precursor of the now highly successful Agribition, located in Lethbridge at their new Agri Plex.

The Lethbridge office was a great training ground for assistant DA's. In four years, we had Jerry Jones, now DA in Taber; Murray Wild, DA in Taber; Larry Welsh, plant products supervisor in Airdrie; and Ralph Trimmer, now horticulture supervisor in Edmonton.

When the Department of Agriculture offices moved from the court house to the agri complex on the north side of Lethbridge, I decided to try commercial work.

I returned to Alberta Agriculture in 1971 as DA in Grande Prairie. The Peace county was developing the rapeseed industry with all the problems of bertha armyworms, frost and learning about cultural problems connected with this crop. The building of a rapeseed crushing plant at Sexsmith and the development of new varieties of rape has given the Peace county an important alternative cash crop.

As section head of forages and special crops, I look back on a wide and diversified professional career in agriculture. It has been very rewarding to me personally, and working with my colleagues has developed good friends and relationships that have lasted through the years.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

August 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FIRMS RECEIVE NUTRITIVE PROCESSING ASSISTANCE

Walker's Meats and Processing Ltd. of Stettler, Acadia Agro Products of Oyen and Tiger Mushroom Farm Ltd. of Nanton will all receive financial assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

Walker's Meats and Processing Ltd. will receive $14,123 to modernize and expand its meat processing plant. The estimated capital cost is $70,617 and four new jobs are expected to be created.

Acadia Agro Products will receive $16,898 to build a fertilizer blending plant at Oyen. It will be the first in the area, and the estimated capital cost is $105,612. Two jobs are expected to be created.

Tiger Mushroom Farm Ltd. will receive $14,990 for a mushroom packaging plant. The estimated capital cost of the plant is $47,203, and three new jobs are expected to be created.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistant Agreement is equally funded and jointly administered by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

August 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA LIVESTOCK FAIR ASSISTANCE POLICY REVISED

Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture, recently approved a revision to the level of financial assistance provided to livestock producers who exhibit at Agribition in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Alberta Agriculture provides financial assistance to livestock breeders who show animals at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver, Agribition and the Western National Livestock Show in Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. The level of assistance provided to these fairs, with the exception of Agribition, was adjusted last year.

Exhibitors who show breeding cattle at Agribition will now receive $100 per animal or $100 for a cow/calf pair; $75 per market steer and $35 per head for all entries of swine, sheep and goats.

Exhibitors at the Royal Winter Fair receive $200 per animal or $200 per cow/calf pair in the breeding cattle section; $200 per horse in the breeding classes; $70 per animal in the swine, sheep and goat breeding classes; $150 per animal in the market steer classes and $40 per head for market pigs and lambs.

Exhibitors at the Western National Livestock Show receive $200 per animal in beef breeding cattle classes; $150 per animal for bulls shown in groups of three to five and $100 per animal for a carlot of bulls (maximum of 12 animals).

Exhibitors at the Pacific National Exhibition receive financial assistance that is equal to the regular prize money for individual and groups of breeding animals that place in

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta Livestock Fair Assistance Policy Revised (cont'd)

their respective classes. Special awards, such as those given by breed associations, are not matched under this assistance program. Beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats, swine and horses shown in non-performance classes are all eligible for this assistance.

Application forms and additional information on the above programs can be obtained from the Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

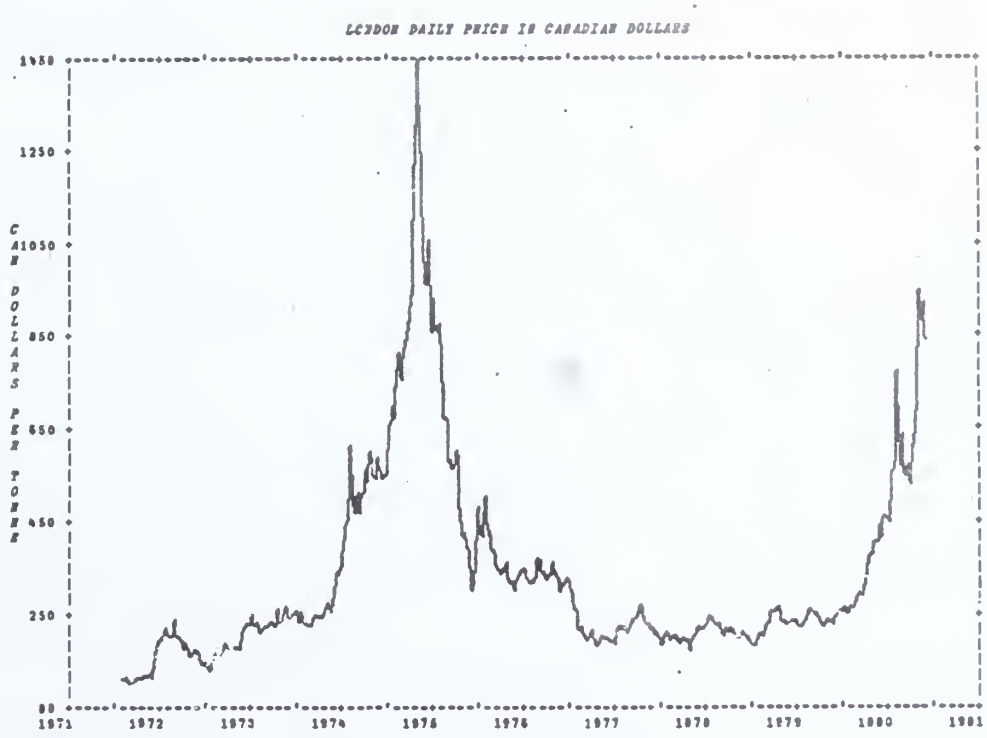
- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

August 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUGAR OUTLOOK



Prospects for returns from the 1980 Canadian sugar beet crop have improved considerably as a result of recent world sugar market developments.

Alberta Agriculture's market analyst, Bob Prather, predicts that Canadian refined beet sugar prices, in line with world prices, will remain relatively strong for the 1980-81 crop year even though there has been some decline in Canadian sugar consumption. Returns to sugar beet growers will continue to reflect the strong market, and favorable returns are expected from the 1979 crop, with final payments being made in late 1980 or early 1981.

Mr. Prather reports that Canadian refined beet sugar production in the 1979-80 crop year was just under 85,000 tonnes, which was the lowest it has been for quite sometime.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Sugar Outlook (cont'd)

Consequently, Canadian sugar beet supplies on May 1 of this year were down by 30 per cent from the year earlier level. However, a 15 per cent reduction in shipments prevented a serious decline in available supplies.

The carryover of refined beet sugar on September 1 is expected to be around 40,000 tonnes. This would be its lowest level since the 1976-77 crop year. As a result of this anticipated situation, refineries increased their contracted acreage this year to an estimated 70,000 acres. This figure includes 25,000 acres in Alberta and 28,000 acres in Manitoba.

Current conditions suggest that Alberta's crop is progressing well, but yield prospects in Manitoba, where the use of irrigation is limited, are poor because of the drought. On the basis of historical yields and the adverse growing conditions in Manitoba, this year's Canadian refined beet sugar production may not be much over 100,000 tonnes. If this is the case, it will cause further pressure on available supplies, and reduce the prospective carryover level going into the 1981-82 crop year.

The revised 1979-80 world sugar carryover projection at 26 per cent of the current consumption level — a significent reduction from year earlier levels — indicates available supplies of sugar will still be adequate. Although this situation could lead to some downward movement in prices in the near future, Mr. Prather believes that current crop expectations and consumption projections for 1980-81 will result in a further reduction in world carryover stocks, and that sugar prices will remain relatively high for the crop year.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

August 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE OUTLOOK

A1 and A2 steers in Calgary are expected to remain in the $75 per hundredweight range throughout the third quarter of this year, providing the American market continues strong. However, feeder cattle prices will remain under pressure as a result of higher barley prices in the 1980-81 crop year.

According to Bill Gray, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, lower slaughter cattle prices compared with a year ago and substantially higher feed costs and financing charges have forced feeders to bid lower prices for calves. For example, 400-500 pound calves that averaged $81.07 per hundredweight in June of this year at Edmonton averaged $117.29 during the same period last year, representing a decrease of $36.22 per hundredweight or $163 per head.

Mr. Gray says the lower prices for feeders and the high cost of financing has left many cow-calf operators discouraged, and that they are unlikely to rebuild their herds under these conditions. The Alberta Cattle on Feed Survey shows that there were 16 per cent fewer heifers being retained for breeding on July 1 of this year compared with a year ago.

Mr. Gray reports that total Canadian beef slaughter is running above the year ago level, and that the recent improvement in slaughter cattle prices can be attributed to the low volume of fed slaughter cattle in the United States.

Although cow-calf producers will benefit from these higher slaughter prices, the prospects for a substantial increase in feeder prices will be limited by high and uncertain grain prices. "This situation will dampen the incentive of cow-calf producers to expand their breeding herds," Mr. Gray says.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

Cattle Outlook (cont'd)

There appears to be little hope of any significant relief from high feed grain costs. Even though Canadian farmers seeded 25 per cent more acres to barley this spring, this year's crop is forecast to be only about 11 per cent larger than the 1979 crop because of the drought in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The Canadian Wheat Board's recent announcement that the initial payment on deliveries of No.1 feed barley in the 1980-81 crop year will be raised to $2.70 per bushel (basis Vancouver) from $1.95 per bushel will have a further negative effect on the feeder cattle market. Mr. Gray says an initial price of $2.70 per bushel (basis Vancouver) means that the value of deliveries to country elevators in Alberta will be approximately $2.50 per bushel, which, theoretically, places a floor under the price of non-board barley. Sales from farms to feedlots will take place at a price equal to $2.50 per bushel plus the seller's anticipated final payment on board deliveries. Unfortunately, the final realized price for barley delivered to the board will not be known until January of 1982, and, in the meantime, Alberta cattle feeders and barley growers selling on the non-board market must arrive at a price that is based on the best estimates of the final value of delivering to the board.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

August 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE SEED OUTLOOK

Prospects for 1980-81 forage seed markets are somewhat mixed, according to Bob Prather, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

He expects red fescue prices to decline and clover prices to remain at or near current low levels. However, he predicts strong markets for both timothy and alfalfa and the likelihood of continuing good markets for bromegrass.

The 1979-80 crop year has been one of favorable prices and demand for most Canadian grass seed and for alfalfa seed. Prices for creeping red fescue, bromegrass and alfalfa have been particularly good.

Export markets and prices have improved considerably for creeping red fescue and timothy seed. However, increasing quantities of alfalfa seed continue to be imported into Canada as production here remains far short of demand. The clover seed market continues to be depressed because recent crops have been large and the demand insufficient to prevent a sizeable build-up of farm holdings. Alsike and single-cut red clover prices are the lowest they have been since 1972 and 1973, respectively.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

August 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROCESSED ALFALFA OUTLOOK

Early season markets for Canadian processed alfalfa have gathered considerable strength as a result of the drought in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Bob Prather, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says this situation has resulted in Alberta processing plants focusing their marketing strategies for 1980-81 more on the domestic scene. This focus has been further strengthened by a reduction in Alberta's first-cut hay yields which has led to a high priced market for hay and the processed products.

Western Canada's processed alfalfa production in the 1980-81 crop year is not expected to exceed two-thirds of last year's production, with the result that the exportable surplus could be less than half of that shipped in the 1979-80 crop year.

Mr. Prather believes that a shortfall in Canada's exports and rising prices in the key mid-western United States could result in export prices that are well above earlier expectations. "Alberta processing plants that can secure adequate hay supplies will enjoy rising markets and improved margins," he says. However, there are several plants in Alberta that are experiencing difficulty in obtaining hay at a reasonable price.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

August 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONEY OUTLOOK

Alberta honey producers could have another excellent crop of over 20 million pounds and favorable prices of well over 50¢ per pound in the coming year.

Bob Prather, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says the possibility of a significant reduction in Canada's 1980 honey crop suggests that current excess supplies will not prove burdensome in the marketing of this year's crop, and that the strong prices of the past two years are likely to be maintained.

The 1979 record honey crop has moved well in a market that has been characterized by steady demand and good prices, and export sales have been exceptionally strong in both volume and value terms. Sales to the United States have recovered from their low level of last year, and sales to the European Economic Community have continued to increase. This, in addition to the possibility of a considerably reduced Canadian honey crop this year, suggests that current excess supplies will not prove burdensome. Reduced exportable surpluses in the key producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere and a reduced U.S. crop all suggest that export markets could strengthen even further and offer potentially higher returns to Canadian exporters. Mr. Prather says higher world sugar prices could prove an added bonus to the market outlook for honey exports in the coming year.

- 30 -

hone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING APPOINTMENT

Wilf Bowns, director of marketing with Alberta Agriculture's international marketing, has announced the appointment of Bryan Davidson to the position of senior marketing officer.

Bryan Davidson

Mr. Davidson will help to develop export projects in the grains, oilseeds, forage seed and feed areas with the objective of expanding Alberta's agricultural products export trade.

He was raised on a farm in Ontario. He obtained a B.Sc. (animal science) in 1968 from Iowa State University in the United States and an M.Sc. (animal nutrition) in 1972 from South Dakota State University, also in the United States.

He was associated with the grain, agricultural chemical and feed trades following graduation from South Dakota State University until he joined Alberta Agriculture's international marketing this year. He worked with Robin Hood Multifoods Ltd., Hoffman LaRoche Ltd., Xtavim Agricultural Products Ltd. and Prairie Liquid Feeds Ltd. His position with these companies included territorial manager, technical services representative, technical services manager and general manager.

Mr. Davidson moved to southern Alberta from Ontario five years ago.

- 30 -

hone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

August 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO HANNA

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Diane Bergen-Henengouwen to the position of district home economist at Hanna.

Ms. Bergen-Henengouwen was raised on a mixed irrigation farm north of Picture Butte. She graduated with distinction from the University of Alberta in 1978 with a B.Sc. (home economics).

Her past job experience includes working as a dietary aid in the Lethbridge Municipal Hospital and as a textile technologist for the University of Alberta's Textile Analysis Service.

Ms. Bergen-Henengouwen joined Alberta Agriculture's extension service in 1978 and took her district home economist training at Red Deer. She was then appointed to Smoky Lake where she has been district home economist for the last year and a half.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

AGRI-NEWS

HL 1691

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

More North Peace Reminiscences (Jubilee Series) 1

Breeding Sows Before They Are Weaned 3

August Hog Price Support Levels 6

Removing Toxic Gases From Tower Silos 7

Computerized Weed Control Recommendation Program 9

Estimated Hog Returns 10

Remote Area Heating Allowance 11

Challenges In Agricultural Production In Western Canada 13

Feed Industry Conference 16

Assistant Regional Manager For Barrhead Appointed 18

New Loans Officers Hired By ADC 19

Transfers Of ADC Loans Officers 21

District Agriculturist Appointments 22

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE NORTH PEACE REMINISCENCES

by Don Macpherson
District Agriculturist at Airdrie

I was on the staff at Fairview College when it opened in 1951, but after a couple of seasons it appeared that there was not enough to keep me busy during the summer months. However, the DA at Berwyn, whose district extended from Peace River town to the B.C. border and north to the Territories thought he might be able to find something for me to do. Thus, I began my apprenticeship in the largest district in the province, which is now served by four offices.

Those beautiful light colored soils made wonderful mud but they also made great dust when dry. The highway from Peace River to Dunvegan was paved, but all the other roads were either dirt or gravel so there was plenty of dust. It seeped into the most tightly closed car and coated everything with a floury film. After a long trip, we looked like millers! However, even these roads were a great improvement over those experienced by earlier DAs.

Soon after I started, it was time for the spring expedition to Fort Vermilion — up the Mackenzie Highway from Grimshaw to High Level then east to the fort, — about 220 miles of very dusty gravel. I spent the night in a little log hotel where even I bumped my head on the ceiling if I wasn't careful. Next morning I visited with the fellows at the Canada Department of Agriculture experimental farm and then off to Buffalo Head Prairie for a few farm visits. There were quite a number of good sized, long-established, well equipped farms mostly in grain and seed production, but they had a transportation problem.

At first they had shipped their grain up-river to Peace River on the barges returning from Vermilion Chutes, but when the highway opened, this traffic slowly dwindled and finally ceased. The farmers lost their cheap convenient service and were forced to resort to

- (cont'd) -

More North Peace Reminiscences (cont'd)

trucks – 30 or 40 miles north on dirt roads, across the ferry at Fort Vermilion, out to High Level and then down to the elevator at Grimshaw. It was only about 250 miles. We think we have problems if an elevator closes and the trip is 10 miles rather than five. They still have a long haul by our standards, but it has been reduced considerably by new roads, bridges and the railway.

The roads may have been long, but the hospitality and appreciation were unlimited all over the Peace country. My mentor was dedicated to the task of improving the lot of the people in his far flung district, and so the work was interesting and rewarding. After a few summers at Berwyn and Spirit River, I asked for a transfer to extension. The North Peace was a good place to apprentice for my own first office. The climate and the landscape were different, but the people and the miles very much the same. The new posting was to Hanna, then second only in area to Berwyn. These two districts which were served by a DA and usually a DHE in each and sometimes a summer assistant, are now served by 13 DAs and assistants, six DHEs and numerous others such as loans officers. Times change!

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BREEDING SOWS BEFORE THEY ARE WEANED

by Leo B. Abenes, Ph.D
Regional Swine Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Is it possible to get sows pregnant while confined in a farrowing crate and suckling a litter? Yes!

A group of researchers, from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, U.S.A., under the direction of Dr.C.L. Hausler, have published results of their studies on inducing pregnancy in lactating sows in a recent issue of the "Journal of Animal Science". They have concluded that the induction of ovulation and conception in lactating sows is possible as early as 15 days after they have farrowed through the use of the hormones Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotrophin (PMSG) and Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (HCG).

Lactation Anestrus

Lack of heat during the suckling period has been a major obstacle to maximizing reproductive efficiency in swine. To cope with it, producers have been weaning earlier to shorten the anestrus period and increase the number of farrowings per sow per year. Recently, however, there have been indications that this really is not the answer and many swine researchers are advocating a return to the longer preweaning period. They are now saying that producers should not wean pigs earlier than five weeks. They cite a longer interval from weaning to rebreeding, a reduced ovulation rate and litter size at the next farrowing, a decreased conception rate, an increased incidence of cystic ovaries and disease problems as disadvantages of early weaning.

Late Weaning and Early Pregnancy

Hormone therapy is an answer to these problems in that pregnancy occurs concurrently with lactation, thereby eliminating the need for early weaning, while, at the same-time, reducing the interval between successive farrowings.

- (cont'd) -

Breeding Sows Before They Are Weaned (cont'd)

Previously researchers reported that the lack of heat during lactation was caused by the lack of stimulation of the ovaries, rather than the failure of the ovaries to respond when stimulated. What Dr. Hausler's group has done is to stimulate the ovaries by injecting suckling sows with PMSG to promote growth of the follicles. Ninety-six hours later, the hormone HCG was injected to cause ovulation of these follicles, and 24 hours later the sows were artificially inseminated. Insemination was repeated in 36 to 42 hours without bothering to detect estrus.

Pregnancy Rates

The results? Fourteen out of 20 sows (70%) conceived when treated in this manner. In another experiment 17 out of 20 sows (85%) conceived after the PMSG/HCG treatment.

Dr. Hausler states: "We believe that the administration of HCG and the use of timed insemination increased the conception rate in this study over those observed in other studies. Lactating sows may not show behavioural estrus (heat), but conception rates indicate that ovulation occurs in the great majority."

Boon to A.I.

The above study demonstrates that following gonadotrophic hormone treatment lactating sows will ovulate and conceive to artificial insemination as early as 15 days after farrowing. The conception rates, number of corpora lutea and the average number of embryos obtained by this procedure were comparable to those obtained in a natural breeding program.

The performance of the piglets of treated sows was the same as that of the controls, which means a sow can be successfully inseminated without interrupting her lactation or having to remove the baby pigs.

Ease of Breeding

Another major advantage of this management system is that it is very convenient to breed sows while they are confined in a farrowing crate, and it eliminates the need for

Breeding Sows Before They Are Weaned (cont'd)

special handling and special facilities for sows kept in loose housing. The fact that at least some of the sows will be already pregnant when they are turned loose on pasture will decrease the number of boars that must be kept.

Best of all, since lactation occurs concurrently with pregnancy, the farrowing interval will be shorter and the reproductive efficiency of the sows will be increased.

- 30 -

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST HOG PRICE SUPPORT LEVELS

The following prices pertaining to the Alberta Emergency Stop Loss Program for hogs are published as a guide to weaning pig buyers and sellers who use the slaughter market price in a contract. The actual support price will vary in relation to the index grade.

Month	Guaranteed Return on a 170-lb. hog with an index of 101	Equivalent Price Per hundredweight for a 100-index hog
April	$103.82	$60.47
May	$104.88	$61.09
June	$105.22	$61.28
July	$105.31	$61.33
August	$105.98	$61.72

The support price is based on the price of barley and hog supplement on a moving four month average. For hogs marketed in August, the barley price was $2.33 per bushel and the supplement price was $18.41 per hundredweight.

Total payments under the support program to date approximate the following:

April	$ 4,094,000
May	$ 3,312,000
June	$ 3,006,000
Total	$10,412,000

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REMOVING TOXIC GASES FROM TOWER SILOS

It seems that the conventional way of removing toxic gases from tower silos is not very effective or very safe.

Up to now, it has been assumed that ventilating a tower silo with a forage blower is sufficient to remove the toxic gases that are present both during and after the silo has been filled. These gases, referred to as silogas, include the oxides of nitrogen, particularly nitrogen dioxide and carbon dioxide, which are heavier than air. The threshold limit for nitrogen dioxide and carbon dioxide is 55 ppm and 5,000 ppm respectively.

Recommended ventilation times required to remove silogas from a tower silo varies from five to 15 minutes, according to the source of the information. As a general rule, these ventilating times have not been established by any prior experimentation.

Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Sangudo, Darryl Wells, reports that recent research directed by Agriculture Canada's Hazardous Gases Committee, indicates that, in most cases, a forage blower does not do a good job of removing gases. He says the tests that have been conducted indicate that the air movement in the silo caused by a forage blower creates a general turbulence in the silo without significantly removing the heavier than air gases or it creates a stratified air movement. In this case the air moves down the wall of the silo, across the silo — not necessary on the surface of the silage where the gases usually collect — and back up the opposite wall. Hence, the purging effect is highly questionable.

Mr. Wells goes on to say that the research was done with the silo doors in place even though convention requires that the door at the surface of the silage to be open to allow the toxic gases to be forced out by the forage blower. He explains that removing this door is very dangerous because the person has to climb above it to remove it and then let the silogas

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Removing Toxic Gases From Tower Silos (cont'd)

move out before he returns to the base of the silo or enters the silo from the enclosed vertical chute at the surface of the silage.

Mr. Wells points out that the enclosed chute, in which the doors are located, has a "chimney-like" air movement, and that field experience has shown that the silogas moves up it to where the person is standing or settles in a concentrated pocket part way up the chute. In either case, the person is vulnerable to a serious exposure of toxic gases. According to Mr. Wells, one out of every three people exposed to concentrated silogas dies.

At the present time the safest way to enter a tower silo during the danger period (during filling and up to three weeks after filling) is to wear a pressure-demand airline respirator with an emergency egress bottle.

Those working on the toxic gas problem in tower silos hope that a relatively inexpensive removal system will be developed in the near future, which would eliminate the need to use an airline respirator.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPUTERIZED WEED CONTROL RECOMMENDATION PROGRAM

Alberta Agriculture is developing the first computerized weed control recommendation program in Canada.

Under the direction of Walter Yarish of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch, the program is being designed to provide the optimum recommendations possible for controlling weeds under specific conditions.

Mr. Yarish envisages that when the program becomes fully operational in two or three years, a farmer will be able to submit information on the crop he is growing, the weeds that are present and the developmental stage of both to his district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman, who will feed the information into a computer. The computer will then select the best herbicide to use and give such other information as the rate and amount that will be needed to treat the required acreage plus the price of the product and the total cost of the operation. It will also tell the farmer where he can purchase the prescribed herbicide.

The need for a computerized weed control program has resulted from the tremendous increase in the number of products and product combinations that has taken place since 1971. Prior to that time, the number of herbicide choices for any specific use was still limited and did not create any real problem. This year, for example, 25 herbicides or herbicide combinations were registered for use on wheat; 30 for barley; 16 for oats and 10 for rapeseed and mustard, all of which have very specific uses and restrictions. To add to an already complex situation, there are now an increasing number of new crops like fababeans and lentils.

Mr. Yarish believes that the computerized weed control recommendation program will alleviate many of the problems now encountered in choosing the best herbicide for a specific job. He also believes that farmers and industry personnel will eventually be able to obtain weed control recommendations through their own computers.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESTIMATED HOG RETURNS

Estimated hog returns above feed cost for a typical 50 sow farrow-to-finish operation averaged $13.27 per hog sold in the second quarter of this year compared with $27.23 in the first quarter and $61.20 in the second quarter of 1979.

Lyle Smith of Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch reports that estimated total production costs in the second quarter were $111.59 per hog sold. This estimate, which was more than 27 per cent higher than in the second quarter of 1979, consists of $64.03 for feed costs; $12.89 for marketing and veterinary expenses, building repairs and other cash costs; and $34.67 for non-cash costs. Non-cash costs include an estimate for the operator's labor, an interest charge on investment and a depreciation allowance based on an estimated capital investment in the farrow-to-finish operation of $2,399 per sow.

One hundred index hogs average $45.02 per hundredweight dressed in Edmonton in the second quarter of this year compared with $53.22 in the first quarter and $64.99 in the second quarter of 1979.

During the week ending July 11 of this year, 100 index hogs averaged $54.22 per hundredweight dressed in Edmonton. According to Mr. Smith, the percentage of market hogs grading 102 or higher has remained relatively constant. By the end of the first week in July, 60.5 per cent of the 903,426 hogs graded in Alberta in 1980, excluding sows and stags, had indexed 102 or higher. On the national level, 65 per cent of hogs graded, other than sows and stags had an index of 102 or higher.

The above estimate of total production costs was done on a typical 50-sow farrow-to-finish operation in recognition of the fact that costs vary according to the size and age of the operation and the degree of mechanization.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REMOTE AREA HEATING ALLOWANCE

Remote area residents and farmers who until now have not benefitted from the Alberta government's commitment to lower energy costs will now have their turn. The Remote Area Heating Allowance, a major addition to the renewed Natural Gas Price Protection Plan, will provide a direct 35 per cent rebate on the purchase price of propane and fuel oil purchased on or after October 1, 1980.

The propane/fuel oil rebate will not apply to residents living within serviced natural gas franchise areas who, by choice, prefer to use fuel oil or propane because natural gas is available in these areas for much less than the cost of alternate fuels. Every effort is being made to ensure that Albertans take advantage of the savings to be made by using more economical natural gas.

One of the main reasons for promoting natural gas where it is available, apart from its inherent inexpensive nature, is the fact that the majority of rural residents of Alberta now use natural gas that is provided through a rural gas co-operative. They and the gas utility companies and the provincial government have made a considerable investment in their co-operative gas distribution systems. Since the average cost of maintaining and operating these systems would be less, which would result in still lower natural gas prices if more rural residents were to take advantage of them, the government wishes to encourage maximum use of natural gas where it is available.

Rebates for propane and fuel oil will not be approved for residents living within the franchised boundaries of a natural gas distributor unless the distributor verifies in writing that natural gas service is not available to the applicant. Should natural gas service be extended to the applicant at a future date, then the propane or fuel oil rebate will be terminated since

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Remote Heating Allowance Feature (cont'd)

the resident would be expected to sign up for the natural gas service.

The approximate average consumer price per million BTUs of natural gas, fuel oil and propane tell the cost story very clearly. After the natural gas rebate has been applied, natural gas costs the average consumer $1.60 per mmBTU, while propane costs $5 per mmBTU and fuel oil $4.10 per mmBTU.

The Remote Area Heating Allowance will limit rebates to be paid to 4,000 gallons of propane or 2,700 gallons of fuel oil per user. This is approximately double the current average domestic consumption. This limit is designed to ensure that the program shields remote residents of Alberta from high heating costs, and also that it is not being used as a major subsidy for commercial or industrial uses.

Eligible propane and fuel oil consumers can obtain their rebate by completing a registration form and submitting their paid original invoice to the Rebates Branch of Alberta Utilities and Telephones. The invoices must include the date of purchase, the amount of fuel purchased and the unit cost of the fuel. Residents who do not know whether they live within the franchise boundaries of a gas distributor can contact their nearest gas utility company or rural gas co-op.

The Remore Area Heating Allowance is anticipated to cost as much as $10 million per year. Mr. Shaben, minister of Utilities and Telephones for Alberta, said it is hard to estimate the cost accurately because it has been difficult to obtain accurate information on how many residents will be eligible, and how much oil and propane they consume per year, particularly since many of them supplement their heating fuel with coal and wood.

An appeal board will be established to hear any complaints relating to ineligibility rulings by natural gas distributors.

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN WESTERN CANADA

Excerpt from a Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Agricultural Institute of Canada in Edmonton by A.A. Guitard, Director General, Western Region Research Branch, Agriculture Canada, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

"We have developed a viable northern agricultural industry in the West, but we have paid certain penalties. We have made the whole industry intensely energy-consumptive, we have developed it on a very narrow gene base and we continue to use summerfallow as insurance against drought. As I look to the future, I am concerned that the viability cannot be maintained if the high energy use, genetic poverty and summerfallow continue.

"My greatest concern is for the major contribution of summerfallow to salinization of our soils under dryland farming conditions. This is the most serious problem facing Western Canadian agriculture. If not dealt with soon, and adequately, it will significantly reduce our production base. To adequately deal with this problem requires a close association of the federal government and the governments of the three Prairie provinces. It requires a large research effort coordinated by a strategically located salinity research group. It requires enforced use of production systems that will protect the soil from salinization. This could well include legislation restricting the use of summerfallow in areas with a very high potential for salinization.

We are commencing to broaden our gene base in both animals and crops. Foreign breeds of cattle have been introduced, evaluated and are used in our breeding systems. We have developed adapted cultivars of corn, sunflowers, peas, lentils and certain other crops. We are considering wheat cultivars with quality different from hard red spring. We have begun to satisfy the deficiencies but we must know that this is just the beginning. We must do much more in all of our major soil-climatic regions if we are to have a mature industry. For maturity

- (cont'd) -

Challenges In Agricultural Production In Western Canada (cont'd)

we must have an industry based on stable yield and quality of a wide range of crops to satisfy a diversified world market.

"We are starting to think about energy conservation strategies. Zero and minimum tillage are receiving attention as demonstrated by this year's program of the Canadian Societies of Agronomy, Soil Science and Engineering. Research in solar application is starting up. A number of other concerns for energy use are being expressed. In total, I expect that there will be sufficient research to move us in the right direction. Whether or not the movement is fast enough is a matter of individual opinion. What we must seriously debate is whether or not we are prepared to scale down, even moderately, our production expectations in order to gain the savings in energy that may be necessary. If we are, we should be starting now to do research to develop alternate production systems.

"But these inherited problems must not be our only concerns. We still have some 20 — 30 million acres of potentially arable land in Western Canada. This land is north of our present production base. Its development fringe is our present frontier. This is where the north and the new come together. To do an efficient job of resource development, we must plan and guide the opening of this new arable land in a knowledgeable and responsible manner. To do this, we must take three initiatives.

"First, we must establish a northern agriculture research and development institute on the campus of one of our Western universities that has an agriculture faculty. We must staff it with experts in soil, climate, crop and animal breeding and production, economics, marketing, human relations and a wide range of related disciplines. We must have this group bring together all of the present knowledge of the north and catalyze and coordinate future research on the north. They must then use this knowledge to articulate development strategies for agriculture in the north and continually update these in relation to changes in technology,

Challenges In Agricultural Production In Western Canada (cont'd)

markets and the expectations of Canadians. Federal, provincial and territorial governments must fund and guide the activities of this institute.

"Secondly, despite our various expectations, we must agree on and follow an orderly sequencing of development extending north from areas that are now in production. The first phase would consist of converting to forage production large blocks of land and using the blocks for 10 - 20 years for summer grazing of beef cattle. The second phase would consist of dividing these large blocks into farms that become part of a developed agricultural community.

"Thirdly, we must adapt our research programs to provide for on-site research in the blocks that are in the first stage of development. When settlement occurs, we must be waiting for the new farmers prepared to demonstrate the appropriate production technology. By doing this, we will evade many of the problems associated with past development.

"Just one final comment. Many of the development and production methods that were right for our northern agriculture when it was starting up now need modification. It is imperative that the required changes be recognized and implemented. Without change the industry will soon be damaged. Much of the responsibility for both the recognition and implementation is ours. We must do our job well."

- 30 -

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

Have you registered yet for the 20th annual Feed Industry Conference? It is designed for anybody connected with the livestock industry and will be held on September 10 and 11 at the Marlborough Inn in Calgary.

The aim of the conference is to foster co-operation and understanding among the widely diversified segments of agribusiness that are related to the feed industry. These include research, production, marketing, banking, extension, veterinary services and technical suppliers. This year's chairman is Walter Dietz of Alberta Agriculture.

The registration desk will be open from 6 to 8 p.m. on September 10 and from 7.30 to 8.45 a.m. on September 11. The evening social banquet will start at 7 p.m. on September 10, and the guest speaker will be Frank Jacobs, co-ordinator of the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation in Calgary.

Topics on the agenda include: Survey of the 80's; Money Management and Availability in the 80's; Producers' Concerns for the 80's; Research Concerns for the 80's; Feed Industry in the 80's; Supply Concerns for the 80's; Veterinary Concerns for the 80's and Consumer Concerns for the 80's. Feed industry equipment, which has not received much attention at past conferences, is on this year's agenda.

Morley Douglas, assistant deputy minister of production with Alberta Agriculture, will summarize the conference, and Peter Perkins, chief executive officer of Herald Grain, will be the guest speaker at the luncheon on September 11.

The registration fee is $70 per person, which covers the banquet and the luncheon and a copy of the conference proceedings. Those who wish to attend are asked to register as soon as possible to help the conference committee to making the final arrangements. Cheques

- (cont'd) -

Feed Industry Conference (cont'd)

should be made payable to the Canadian Feed Industry Association (Alberta Division) and sent to the Secretary, CFIA (Alberta Division), C/o University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension, Corbett Hall, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2G4, before September 4.

The Feed Industry Conference is being sponsored by the Canadian Feed Industry Association (Alberta Division); the Alberta Veterinary Association; Alberta Agriculture and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, and Faculty of Extension.

- 30 -

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT REGIONAL MANAGER FOR BARRHEAD APPOINTED

Lorne C. Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the promotion of John Strand to assistant regional manager at Barrhead.

Mr. Strand joined the corporation in January, 1979, as a loans officer in Grande Prairie and subsequently transferred to Red Deer. He was raised on a farm in the Lamont area and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B. Comm. in 1976.

Prior to joining the corporation, Mr. Strand was a partner in a fencing company, and also operated the family farm.

- 30 -

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW LOANS OFFICERS HIRED BY ADC

Lorne Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the hiring of the following new loans officers.

Bruce Waldie joined the corporation on July 28 and is located in the Westlock office. He was raised in Medicine Hat and spent five years with feed companies after graduating with a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta.

Kathryn Richardson joined the corporation on August 5 and is located in the Red Deer office. She recently graduated with a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta and is a member of the International Arabian Horse Association.

Alexander Campbell joined the corporation on August 5 and is located in the Fairview office. He graduated with a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Manitoba in 1977, and worked initially with an agricultural service company in Brandon, Manitoba. He has just returned from a year as a CUSO volunteer attached to a World Bank agricultural services project in Ghana.

Harvey Labuhn also joined the corporation on August 5. He recently graduated with a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta and will be spending his first few months with the corporation at its head office in Camrose.

Marilyn Enzenauer joined the corporation on August 11 and will be located in the Vermilion office. She recently graduated with a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta and comes from a farm near Kitscoty. She previously worked with the Alberta Hail Project and the Alberta Research Council.

Len Fedyna also joined the corporation on August 11 and is located in the Two Hills office. He has a diploma in business administration from the Northern Alberta Institute

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

New Loans Officers Hired By ADC (cont'd)

of Technology and 10 years experience with Alberta Agriculture as a farm management technician in Vegreville. Prior to that, he worked for Alberta Energy and Natural Resources and the Vegreville and district co-op.

Susan Babyn will join the corporation on August 18 and will be located in the St. Paul office. She was raised on a farm near Derwent and is a University of Alberta B.Comm. graduate. Her most recent position was as accountant for the town of Bonnyville.

William Corrigan will also join the corporation on August 18 and will be located in Barrhead. He has a diploma in agriculture from Olds College and was with the Farm Credit Corporation for four years prior to 1968. Since then he has been self-employed in farming, house building and appraisal work.

William Friesen will join the corporation on September 1 and will be located in the Taber office. He has a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Saskatchewan and several years of experience with the Farm Credit Corporation. He has managed his own dryland and irrigated farming operation for some years.

- 30 -

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRANSFERS OF ADC LOANS OFFICERS

Lorne Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the following transfers.

Lewis Johnston will be transferred to Barrhead on August 18 as a loans officer. He joined the corporation in July of this year and spent his initial period with the corporation in the Two Hills office. He has an M.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta and has been farming in the Drumheller area for the last 10 years.

Brian Moore will be transferred to Stettler as a loans officer on September 16. He joined the corporation in December 1978, and, after a short period in head office, became loans officer in Westlock. He was raised in the Alix area and has his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta.

- 30 -

August 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, has announced the appointments and transfers of district agriculturists to Stettler, Sedgewick, Lacombe and Wainwright.

Glen Werner, formerly district agriculturist at Sedgewick, has been appointed senior district agriculturist at Stettler. He will supervise agricultural programs in the Stettler, Coronation and Sedgewick districts.

Mr. Werner is a native of the Yorkton area in Saskatchewan, and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with an animal science major in 1973. He has trained three assistant district agriculturists and has been very active in community and program leadership roles.

Peter Gamache has been appointed district agriculturist at Sedgewick and will serve the Flagstaff county. He was transferred from Athabasca where he completed his training under senior district agriculturist Gary Berger.

Mr. Gamache is a 1975 graduate of the University of Alberta and has a major in grazing animal management. He did soil survey and forestry work while attending university, and spent four years as manager with Highfield Hay Farms in southern Alberta before joining Alberta Agriculture.

Ron Hockridge has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Lacombe. Prior to his transfer to Lacombe, he was farm training specialist for the Peace River region with headquarters at Fairview.

Mr. Hockridge comes from Ontario and has a diploma from Kemptville College and a degree in general agriculture (1971) from Macdonald College in Quebec. His previous

- (cont'd) -

District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

work experience includes four years as farm management consultant with Agriculture Canada's Small Farm Development Program in B.C. and two years with Agriculture Canada's Health of Animals Branch in Ontario.

Murray Woods has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Wainwright. He will be working with senior district agriculturist Arvid Aasen, following the appointment of former district agriculturist Bob Park to the position of special crops supervisor with Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch in Lacombe.

A native of Oyen, Alberta, Mr. Woods graduated with a B.S.A. from the University of Saskatchewan in 1977, having majored in animal science. He spent the two years prior to his present appointment as a loans officer with the Agricultural Development Corporation during which time he was located at Westlock and Wainwright.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

August 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

An Era Of "New Beginnings" (Jubilee Series) 1

Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement Extended 5

Report On Alternative Ways Of Handling And Transporting Grain In The Peace River Region 6

Alberta's Forage Situation. 8

Edmonton Hosts Unique International Trade Fair 10

Beef Cattle — AI 12

Busy Month For International Marketing Sector. 13

Recommended Sanitary Procedures For Cutting Up A Carcass At Home 14

Irrigation Canola Production Manual. 17

New Recipes Available 18

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

August 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN ERA OF "NEW BEGINNINGS"

As Related By
E.G. Wood
to his Daughter Lorna Connally

My association with the Alberta "DA" program began in 1930, following Premier John Brackens economy sweep of the agricultural work in Manitoba.

It was a beautiful, sunny day in May when my family and I arrived in Hanna. Less than 24 hours later the landscape was obliterated with dust, tin cans and papers flying through the air! This was the beginning of the "great depression", and to this day, my memories of Hanna are mostly of relief, importing feed and assistance in moving settlers out of the area — the paper work was endless and depressing!

A frequent and welcome visitor from Edmonton was S.G. Carlyle. He was responsible for the "DA" program and genuinely concerned about the work in my area.

Searching for ways and means of supplying the area with water for livestock was the prime concern in the beginning. The Prarie Farm Rehabilitation Administration gave assistance to farmers to dredge or dam existing small waterways and springs. Many waterholes were created along Berry Creek, but these and all the others eventually dried up.

The feeding of livestock became desperate, especially during the winter months. Arrangements were made to ship in trainloads of feed from northern Alberta, and, on one such occasion, the farmers had been notified to meet the weekly run to Wardlow for a relief shipment.

The day arrived and word was received by the Hanna station agent that the train from the north would arrive too late to make the connection to Wardlow. The railway agreed to put on an "extra" the following day, but there remained the problem of alerting the farmers — already on their way!

- (cont'd) -

An Era Of "New Beginnings" (cont'd)

Dr. Anderson, a medical doctor and rancher in the Wardlow area, had one of the few telephones, so he was contacted. He volunteered to call his friend Dr. Scott of Bassano who owned his own plane. Arrangements were made and leaflets dropped — probably the first "Flying Doctor" on an "airmail delivery"!

The one positive agricultural program carried on during my five years in the district was sheep raising and the formation of the Eastern Alberta Wool Growers Association. The breed found to be particularly adaptable to the short grass range — and even Russian Thistle -- was the Rambouillet. This breed also provided wool consisting of long fine fibres with the correct number of "crinkles per inch", necessary for an exceptional quality fibre. Thirty thousand pounds of wool were shipped through the association to the Canadian Wool Growers in Weston, Ontario — an industry that was still going on when I left Hanna in 1935.

Following Hanna, I was transferred to Westlock where the potential for agricultural development was everywhere. It was September and my attention was first drawn to the fall fair - a once successful event, but now on the decline. As the new secretary - treasurer of the Westlock and district agricultural society, I gathered together the dedicated members and managed to rejuvenate the fair to an annual extravaganza with quality entries in all classes. The one day show ended with a giant fireworks display - - never before seen in the area — co-ordinated and set off by "yours truly"!

Just about this time interest was developing in growing forage seed, and, toward the late 1930's, I promoted the idea to the farmers. Small quantities of forage seed could be obtained at a reduced price under the distribution policy of the Alberta Department of Agriculture's field crops branch. By the mid-1940's this operation had grown into a million dollar industry. Beekeeping in the area began as a direct result of the forage crops, but got its big boost with the introduction of sugar rationing during the second World War.

An Era Of "New Beginnings" (cont'd)

The Westlock and District Beekeepers Association was formed, and, as the founding secretary, it fell to me to do all the ordering and distributing of the package bees brought in by train from California. Advising the newly established beekeepers on the finer techniques of beekeeping was also part of my job. I figured "experience to be the best teacher", and started my own three hive apiary on the front lawn! I obtained first-hand knowledge, all the honey we could use and a steady stream of visitors during extracting time!

Honey was marketed through the association and sold for 7¢ a pound! The quality was the finest. Large fields of alfalfa, clover and wild fireweed produced the pure white honey that won a "first" at the British Empire Exhibition in London.

Another "new beginning" in Westlock was the first municipal seed cleaning plant to be established in the province. Three years prior to the municipal plant, I had instigated a small privately owned unit, which demonstrated the need for such a service, but which was not adequate. Eventually, combined funds from municipal and provincial government sources built the larger and more efficient plant.

Westlock was a mixed farming area, but to this date little had been done to improve breeding stock, especially hogs. I was able to secure excellent purebred Yorkshires through arrangements with my brother, who, at the time, was professor of animal husbandary at the University of Manitoba.

Although all the various aspects of the work at Westlock were challenging and interesting, forage seed remained the most progressive and stimulating to me. So it was, after 15 years with the department, I decided to turn my full attention to the seed business and joined the Alberta Seed Growers Association in 1946. I remained with them until my retirement in 1958.

- (cont'd) -

An Era Of "New Beginnings" (cont'd)

About the Author:

E.G. Wood graduated from Macdonald College, Quebec, in 1917 with a B.S.A. from McGill. He joined the army in the fall of that year and was in England until 1919. His first position upon being discharged was assistant to district agriculturist Jim Bell at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, in 1920. He was transferred to Hamiota, Manitoba, as DA where he remained from 1920 to 1923. From then until 1930, he was farm superintendent and instructor at the Industrial Training School at Portage la Prairie. Mr. Wood joined Alberta Agriculture in 1930 and was DA at Hanna until 1935 when he was transferred to Westlock. He went to work for the Alberta Seed Growers' Association in 1946 and remained with the association until he retired in 1958. He then moved to Sidney, B.C., where he and his wife still reside in their own home.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

August 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADA-ALBERTA SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENT EXTENDED

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance has been extended to March 31, 1981. However, applications for this assistance must be received by the joint committee representing Alberta Agriculture by January 31, 1981.

Established in March, 1975, the agreement was due to have expired last March but it has now been extended until next March to allow time for a full evaluation in light of present economic conditions.

The purpose of the agreement is to strengthen the economic situation in rural communities in the province and to help companies located in Alberta that are involved in processing nutritive products for use by people, animals and plants. This assistance takes the form of a grant which can be as much as 35 per cent of the eligible capital to be employed in the project.

Dr. Jim Wiebe, executive director for rural development with Alberta Agriculture, reports that in the five and half years that the agreement has been in effect at least 133 companies have benefited from it. They were offered an estimated $9.4 million in assistance in this period and 930 jobs were created. In the last year alone 80 companies received assistance offers of $5.7 million and an estimated 400 jobs were created.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal and Alberta governments.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

August 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF HANDLING AND TRANSPORTING GRAIN IN THE PEACE RIVER REGION

A study commissioned by Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Economic Development reveals there is a potential for increasing the seeded acreage in the province's Peace River region by more than 2 million acres.

Dallas Schmidt, minister of agriculture, and Hugh Planche, minister of economic development said, in a joint statement, that the report by Deloitte Haskins and Sells Associates and Stanley C.D. Howe Associates projects a 1990 production of 2.6 million tonnes of grains and oilseeds from the Peace River area. This demonstrates the great potential for Canada's last agricultural frontier.

The study entitled "A Feasibility of Alternate Means of Grain Handling and Transportation in the Peace River Region of Alberta" estimates that of the 7.2 million acres of arable land existing in the entire region, some 4.3 million acres could be seeded to grain in a given year. This would represent an increase of almost 90 per cent over 1979 figures.

The consultants project that 2 million tonnes of grain would be marketed through the primary elevator system by 1990, which would be double the present volume. The consultants say, however, that it is essential to exploit new technological advances and concepts in grain handling and transportation to adequately accommodate these anticipated volumes.

The study was commissioned after several reports evaluating grain handling and transportation in Western Canada had been reviewed and it was recognized that these did not address the specific and unique problems of the Peace River area.

To assist the analysis, the consultants developed a number of concepts for comparison. Their ideal concept would maximize unit train movements from new terminal elevators to be located in the Peace River region to seaboard transfer terminals or domestic markets.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Report On Alternative Ways Of Handling And
Transporting Grain In The Peace River Region (cont'd)

Analysis indicated that this concept provided the greatest increase in transportation efficiency but was costly to implement. Other alternatives explored included extension of the existing concept of primary elevators located along present and/or extended railway lines and the introduction of off-line elevators, which are country grain elevators located along the road system and using trucks to carry grain to major terminals on railway lines.

The off-line elevator concept was examined in three areas:-
La Crete-Fort Vermilion, Valleyview and Worsley. Analysis indicated this concept can be more economically feasible than rail line extension. Mr Schmidt indicated this is one area he would like to pursue with grain companies and the federal government.

The report also identifies several areas where handling and transportation methods could be improved. These include the elevator system, road networks, railway operators, grain drying and port facilities.

The feasibility of two possible rail links were examined by the consultants — one from Fairview to Rycroft and another from the Worsley area to Fort St. John, B.C. In both cases, analysis showed construction of these links could not be economically justified at this time.

Mr. Planche indicated, however, that he has asked his staff to investigate whether or not there are some lower cost alternatives for building these rail links that may prove more feasible, particularly in the future when traffic flows additional to grain are likely to appear as the Peace River region develops industrially.

Both ministers expressed appreciation for the cooperation and support the consultants received from the grain industry and area producers. They said they look forward to continuing consultation with these groups in further exploration and adaptation of some of the findings of the study in order to improve grain handling and transportation in the Peace River region.

August 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA'S FORAGE SITUATION

Alberta's forage supplies should be sufficient for next winter, says Ken Motiuk of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch. Even though a number of areas are likely to have an excess of hay, the amount available for sale outside the province is likely to be small.

The hay crop in the Fairview – Grande Prairie – Peace River region is about 75 per cent of average, and ranges from a low of 50 per cent of normal in northeastern districts to normal in the others. The quality is fair to good.

Hay yields in most of the Vermilion – St. Paul region are only 50 to 75 per cent of normal, but the quality is good. However, second crop growth has been poor, and most of the area from Lac La Biche to Bonnyville will probably be short of hay this winter.

The hay crop in the Edmonton – Barrhead region is slightly below normal in yield, and fair to good in quality. Rain in southwestern districts has delayed haying which was later than usual anyway. Second cut growth is variable, and farmers in many areas are taking off only one crop because the first cut was so late.

Hay yields in the eastern area of the Red Deer – Wetaskiwin region are lower than average, and hay quality is fair. In the western area, there is still a considerable amount of hay to be put up. In addition to making many fields impassable, persistent rains have damaged hay quality. There will not be much of a second cut in the Red Deer – Wetaskiwin region.

Hay crops in most of the Calgary – Hanna region have been above average, and the quality of the hay is good to excellent. Second cut growth has also been very good.

Hay yields in the Lethbridge – Medicine Hat region are average and hay quality is excellent. Harvesting of the second cut, which is very good, has begun and yields are better than average. However, showers have affected the quality of the second cut to some extent.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta's Forage Situation (cont'd)

As stated above, only the northeastern part of the province may experience some shortage of hay this winter, but it is not expected to be severe because supplies are likely to be available nearby. Any shortage of hay that does occur will probably be supplemented by greenfeed.

Mr. Motiuk says it is difficult to accurately assess the overall hay supply situation for next winter until more is known about the second cut, the amount of straw that is kept for feed, the amount of greenfeed that is put up and the ability of pastures to sustain grazing until late into the fall.

- 30 -

August 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDMONTON HOSTS UNIQUE INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

Edmonton's Northlands Park is to host an international trade fair, the first of its kind in Canada, on September 16,17,18 and 19.

Known as Cantrade '80 and modelled after some of the best European trade fairs, it is designed to provide Alberta businessmen with an opportunity to display their agricultural processed food and manufactured industrial products and product processing systems to buyers from across Canada and from a large number of foreign countries without having to travel thousands of miles to do so. It is a follow-up to the highly successful Intercan oil and gas trade fair that was held in Edmonton last year. That event attracted exhibitors and buyers from more than 30 countries.

Wilf Bowns, director of marketing with Alberta Agriculture, reports that to date space has been sold for more than 300 booths to approximately 300 exhibitors from such countries as the Soviet Union, Finland, West Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Spain, Mexico and the Cayman Islands. British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Ontario exhibitors have also purchased booth space at the fair.

According to Mr. Bowns, the trade fair exhibits have been divided into the following categories.

- Machinery and equipment manufacturing industries.
- Raw materials and food processing industries.
- Transportation and materials handling systems.
- Power transmission, electrical components and heat transfer equipment.
- Computer systems and communications systems.
- Trade organizations.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Edmonton Hosts Unique International Trade Fair (cont'd)

Mr. Bowns expects several hundred thousand people from all parts of Canada and from other parts of the world to visit this unique North American trade fair, which is intended to become a biannual event.

Cantrade '80 has been endorsed by the federal Department of Industry Trade and Commerce, the City of Edmonton and the following provincial government departments: Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Economic Development, Alberta Culture, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources and the Alberta Research Council.

- 30 -

August 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF CATTLE – AI

The increasing interest by beef producers in the use of straws instead of ampules has lead researchers to re-examine their suggestions for thawing frozen semen.

It has been found that straws of frozen semen that are thawed rapidly in warm water have more viable sperm cells than identical straws that are thawed in ice water, the palm of the hand or in the pocket. The warm water thaw increases the progressive motility, the per cent of intact acrosomes and the fertility of the semen.

When semen in straws is thawed slowly, the many tiny ice crystals that form in the sperm heads damage the semen. Damage is minimal when the semen is brought rapidly to a temperature of 5° C. Being careful not to heat the semen above this temperature will prevent cold-shocking of the cells between the processes of thawing and inseminating.

Drs. Pickett, Rugg and Berndston of Colorado State University recommend using a water bath at 35° C to bring the semen to 5°C. One-quarter cc Continental straws and 1/2 cc French straws should remain in the water for exactly 12 seconds, while 1/4 cc French straws should remain in it for exactly six seconds.

Timing the thaw is extremely important to ensure that the sperm cells reach 5°C rapidly, but do not experience cold shock when they are removed from the thawing bath and exposed to Alberta temperatures while on their way to the cow. Leaving the straws in the bath too long or not long enough decreases the fertility of the semen.

The recommendations for straws do not apply to ampules because the surface area to volume ratios are much smaller for ampules than straws.

- 30 -

August 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUSY MONTH FOR INTERNATIONAL MARKETING SECTOR

July was a busy month for Alberta Agriculture's international marketing sector, which held discussions with the following trade missions.

- West German Technical Horse Mission
- Japanese Fats & Oils Mission
- Inter American Development Bank
- Guatemala Livestock & Horse Mission
- Chinese Mission
- Romanian Ambassador & Party
- Japanese Livestock Buyers Mission
- Texan Buyers Mission

The agency also provided assistance to 21 Alberta companies and assisted with the foreign sales listed below.

Country	Commodity	Dollar Value
Guatemala	Semen	$ 2,600
Japan	183 P.B. Angus	$ 300,000
Ireland	Semen	$ 30,000
Czechoslovakia	80 P.B. Swine	$ 34,250
U.S.A.	Commercial Live Hogs	$1,045,000

During the same period the international marketing sector received enquiries about corn, peat moss (2), 300 Simmental cattle and 1900 Hereford/Angus heifers from the United States, Japan, Australia and Korea respectively.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

August 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECOMMENDED SANITARY PROCEDURES FOR CUTTING UP A CARCASS AT HOME

The best way to be sure of having a clean, wholesome carcass to put in your freezer is to have the animal slaughtered at a local abattoir where there are proper sanitary facilities for handling, aging and cooling the meat. "The fees charged by local abattoirs for slaughtering an animal are usually very reasonable," says Dr. G.W. Summers, head of Alberta Agriculture's meat hygience branch, "and the service is definitely worth considering."

However, if you decide to slaughter an animal at home, there are certain sanitary considerations you should keep in mind. It is important, for example, that the animal be clean before it is slaughtered. A clean, dry hide will certainly facilitate a more sanitary removal procedure. In this case, the use of an overhead loader is a satisfactory method of hanging up the animal, but every effort should be made to keep the carcass elevated in such a way that no portion of it touches the ground after it has been skinned.

It is important to sterilize the knife thoroughly after the first incision through the skin has been made so that the edge that has been in contact with the outside of the hide does not touch the meat lying directly under it. Clean hands are also very important. Your hands should not touch the outside of the hide once the skinning procedure has been started.

Dr. Summers says the process of removing the internal organs may begin when the carcass has been skinned and hung up. However, he advises not opening any of the internal organs at this stage and tying off the rectum as soon as it has been removed to prevent any of its contents escaping into the body cavity. When the carcass has been eviscerated, you may separate the two halves with a saw that is clean and has been recently sterilized.

You should cool the carcass as quickly as possible and preferably in an area that is clean, free of dust, has a low humidity and a temperature of from 0° to 2 °C. According to Dr. Summers, these are the conditions under which ideal aging for seven to 10 days can occur. You can prolong the aging period if you wish. The carcass may be washed with clean water

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

Recommended Sanitary Procedures For Cutting Up A Carcass At Home (cont'd)

under pressure before it is placed in the cooler, but no rags or sponges should be used because they will tend to spread any contamination that may be present.

Always use a clean and sanitary facility for cutting up the carcass. It should be free of dust, including sawdust on the floor because it could contaminate the carcass. The cutting table should be covered with plastic or metal and there should be no cracks or edges to collect dirt. Arborite is not recommended because it inevitably develops cracked edges. Wooden and plastic cutting boards are satisfactory, providing they are sanitized regularly with a chlorine bleach and then allowed to dry.

Dr. Summers stresses that a person who cuts up a carcass must maintain strict personal sanitation. This includes keeping the hair under control, washing the hands regularly with a good soap and keeping the nails short and clean. No jewellery should be worn during this period. Many of the bacteria that are potential causes of food poisoning originate on the hands and in the respiratory tract of the person doing the cutting.

All knives and saws that are going to be used for cutting up the meat should be sterilized in water that has a temperature of not less than 82° C. If possible the temperature in the meat cutting area should be maintained between 10 ° and 15 ° C to inhibit bacterial growth. Contaminant bacteria will begin to reproduce at a temperature of just above 4 ° C. After a short period they are capable of reproducing at a rate that will double their number every 20 minutes. It is for this reason that Dr. Summers strongly recommends that saws, grinders, etc. be completely dismantled, washed and sanitized at least every four hours.

Wrap your meat products in a satisfactory freezer wrapping which has a vapor barrier to keep oxygen away from the product. Plastic bags are satisfactory for many meat cuts and are especially suitable for ground meat.

Timing is critical when putting the meat into the freezer. The cuts should be put on trays as soon as they have been wrapped and placed in a sharp freezer area at a temperature

of -23° to -29° C. A household freezer will not do a satisfactory job of sharp freezing because it is not usually cold enough and because it is capable of freezing only 50 to 60 pounds of meat in a 24-hour period. This lack of capacity puts a lot of stress on the mechanical components of the freezer, which, at worst, could cause it to breakdown, and, which, at best, could cause a delay in freezing and a bacterial breakdown in the meat.

When the carcass has been cut up, it is important to immediately clean up the area to prevent a bacterial buildup, which could contaminate subsequent carcasses. Remove any scraps of fat from the area as soon as possible, clean and sterilize knives and saws in 82° C water and sanitize cutting surfaces and tables with a chlorine bleach.

"If you carefully follow all the above sanitary procedures, you should be able to put a satisfactory meat product in your home freezer," Dr. Summers says.

- 30 -

August 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRRIGATION CANOLA PRODUCTION MANUAL

The Irrigation Canola Production Manual, based on a major survey of irrigation canola producers, carried out by Alberta Agriculture in conjunction with Canbra Foods of Lethbridge, should be available to irrigation farmers this fall.

The survey was conducted in response to a request by the Alberta Rapeseed Growers Association for more information on irrigation canola production technology. The information that was collected is being analyzed and written up.

The irrigation Canola Production Manual will contain the best known production practices that growers are using and the latest research findings in this area.

- 30 -

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

August 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW RECIPES AVAILABLE

Two new recipe publications, "Protein with a Difference" and "Recipes from the Middle East" have just been released by Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch.

"Proteins with a Difference" explains how complete protein can be obtained by eating a specific combination of foods at the same time. A complete protein contains eight essential amino acids, which are all present in such animal proteins as meat, fish, cheese, eggs and milk, but some are missing in vegetable proteins. However, because different foods have different amino acids, it is possible to choose two that will contribute the necessary amino acids to form a complete protein. Legumes (peas, beans and lentils), for example, will provide a complete protein if they are eaten with wheat, rice or corn. Their protein value can be enhanced, however, by serving them with a small quantity of meat, cheese or eggs.

"Recipes from the Middle East" contains eight recipes that are frequently used in the Middle East. The publication includes a recipe for Baklava which makes a delicious dessert even though it would probably be served in the Middle East as a special snack for visitors.

In all the Middle East recipes canola oil has been substituted for olive oil, which is traditionally used in that part of the world.

"Protein with a Difference" and "Recipes from the Middle East" can be obtained from your district home economist or from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division